MEASURE FOR MEASURE,

AN

ANSWER

TO

THE LAST EDITION AND SUPPLEMENT

OF

"HARD MEASURE,"

IN

A LETTER

TO THE

ELECTORS OF SHREWSBURY.

AUDITE ALTERAM PARTEM!

SOLD BY R. EDWARDS, NO. 142, NEW BOND STREET, AND W. MILLER, NO. 5, OLD BOND STREET, LONDON; AND MAY BE HAD OF J. AND W. EDDOWES, SHREWSBURY.

1796.

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AN

ANSWER

TO

THE LAST EDITION AND SUPPLEMENT

OF

"HARD MEASURE."

——Tenet inſanabile multos,
Scribendi cacoethes—— JUV. SAT. vii. 51.

Judge not, that ye be not judged, for with what judgment ye judge, ye ſhall be judged, and with what *meaſure* ye mete, it ſhall be *meaſured* to you again. MATT. vii. 1, 2.

Haſte ſtill pays haſte, and leiſure anſwers leiſure;
Like doth quit like, and *meaſure* ſtill *for meaſure.*
Then, Angelo, thy fault's thus manifeſted;
Which though thou wouldſt deny, denies thee 'vantage:
We do condemn thee to the very block
Where Claudio ſtoop'd to death, and with like haſte;——
Away with him. SHAKESPEARE.

TO THE WORTHY AND INDEPENDENT

THE BURGESSES AND FREEMEN BURGESSES

OF

THE BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES,

IN ANSWER TO A PAMPHLET ENTITLED

" HARD MEASURE,"

WRITTEN AND CIRCULATED BY

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART.

DEPRECIATING

THE CHARACTERS

OF

THE HOUSE OF ATTINGHAM,

ARE, WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT

AND DEFERENCE, INSCRIBED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE following work was undertaken, in the full hope and confidence, that Sir Richard Hill and his brother would have made no objection to the publication of their correſpondence with Mr. E. Burton. The ſubject of the Caernarvon Converſation was ſo materially implicated in thoſe Letters, that common juſtice to his character, as well as to the public, demanded this tribute from them, as the only means of obtaining truth from the myſtery that hangs over it. — And when we take into conſideration the permiſſion * Sir Richard himſelf gave (unaſked) to this effect, I muſt confeſs their ſubſequent refuſal is a mode of conduct we ſhall with difficulty reconcile to the common principles of honour.

It is natural to ſuppoſe, that Sir Richard's object in giving the prohibition, proceeded from a deſire of impeding or debilitating thoſe meaſures which threatened to attach any odium upon his late conduct. He had been told that an anſwer to his pamphlet would ſpeedily appear, ſanctioned by every authority that could give weight and influence to ſuch a publication: and that this intelligence excited in his breaſt no

 ſmall

* "If, however, he [Mr. E. Burton] wiſhes to inveſtigate this buſineſs more "fully, he is perfectly at liberty to publiſh his own letters to me and my "anſwers, that by the peruſal of both, others may form a proper judgment "which of us have moſt cauſe of complaint." — *Poſtſcript to Hard Meaſure, p.* 32.

ſmall degree of alarm, the additional paragraphs to the fourth edition of "HARD MEASURE," ſufficiently demonſtrate. Every obſtacle which art or apprehenſion ſuggeſted to his mind, has been cautiouſly oppoſed againſt the progreſs of this work. Not ſucceeding in this attempt, he proteſts *he will never read it.*

It will be a matter of very little conſequence whether he is faithful to his determination, or whether, according to the general and received opinion, he will ſpeedily violate the reſtraint he has impoſed upon himſelf. Probably ſome perſon will be requeſted to tell him its contents, and another employed in giving it an anſwer; thus, according to the uſual mode of equivocation and ſubterfuge, every purpoſe of curioſity will be fulfilled, without violating his promiſe to the public. In a ſubſequent edition to "Hard Meaſure," he will have an opportunity of making a *ſecond* appeal to Providence, in aſſeveration of his veracity, if he ſhould think proper to declare, he has never been guilty of beſtowing a peruſal upon the *Reply* to that ſtatement and thoſe interrogations, which he challenged us to refute or anſwer.

To my very great ſatisfaction, however, I have to congratulate the public, myſelf, and every friend to truth, upon a circumſtance which has lately come to my knowledge reſpecting thoſe letters I before alluded to. I am informed Mr. E. Burton is reſolved to publiſh the whole of that correſpondence, and to ſubjoin ſuch illuſtrations as he may think expedient. I hope the public will partake in the pleaſure this intelligence has afforded me. They will have now an opportunity of procuring every information with regard to the *Caernarvon Converſation.* They will perceive that every thing we have ſaid upon that ſubject, is ſanctioned by the indiſputable authority of the reſpectable gentleman, who comes forward ſo handſomely to baffle the artifices of our opponents,

and

and to overthrow the paltry excuſe they had made of ſuppreſſing thoſe letters, " becauſe they were called for by an anonymous writer."

It will now be ſeen whether a name is an indiſpenſable requiſite in the promulgation of truth; or whether, according to Sir Richard's own obſervation, " *Names are of little conſequence where truth is in queſtion.*"

If, in the peruſal of Mr. Burton's work, any degree of repetition ſhould appear reſpecting particular topics or expreſſions, which may have occurred in my own, the public will pleaſe to conſider they were inſerted in " *Meaſure for Meaſure*," before any determination had paſſed for the publication of thoſe letters; and at a time when there was no intention of ſubmitting them to general inſpection.

Agreeable to the promiſe I have made in the courſe of this work, I ſhall make no obſervations upon the particulars of that correſpondence. Upon a future occaſion, if I am bleſſed with health and opportunity, I propoſe to comment at large upon that ſubject.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT were ſuperfluous to detain my Salopian readers, by ſtating the provocations which gave birth to the following Reply. They are perfectly acquainted with every circumſtance relative to the undertaking I have engaged in. But as it is probable this work may be ſubjected to a more extenſive circulation than is conſiſtent with the mere local materials from which it has been conſtructed, and as it is very poſſible that many of my readers may not give themſelves the trouble to peruſe Sir Richard's pamphlet, I have thought proper to ſubjoin a few ſpecimens of that moderation and temper which ſo often excites his eulogium, and of that tenderneſs and affection for Mr. W. Hill, and the Houſe of Attingham, which he profeſſes with ſo much ſincerity.

It is not always that ſuch ample proofs of the tender kindneſs of a relation can be procured. The only queſtion I would aſk is, Could they be paſſed over without obſervation or anſwer?

ELEGANT EXTRACTS FROM " HARD MEASURE."

Speaking of Mr. W. Hill's Advertiſement, in page 24, Sir Richard is pleaſed to ſtyle it " a more complete farrago of bombaſt, folly, nonſenſe, *miſrepreſentation*, and contradiction, than ever appeared before the public eye in ſo ſhort a compaſs of paper."

Page 26, Speaking of Mr. W. Hill, he ſays, " can any Member be attached to his Conſtituents, who himſelf is a ſtranger to every attachment of affinity, conſanguinity, gratitude, and affection?"

Page 31, Speaking of his conduct in offering himſelf a Candidate for the borough of Shrewſbury, he ſays, " if he was not induced to adopt ſuch meaſures from *mere boyiſh ambition*, it is *wanton*, *ungrateful*, and *illiberal*, in the higheſt degree."

In a Note to page 51, he accuſes Mr. W. Hill of *malicious Inſinuation*.

Supplement to " Hard Meaſure," page 56, addreſſing himſelf to Mr. W. Hill, he thus *tenderly* expreſſes himſelf. " Theſe ſights methinks I ſee, this language methinks I hear, but there is yet a ſight and a language which I can neither ſee nor hear, I mean the picture of your own heart, the language it utters, and the ſenſation it experiences (if not paſt feeling) under the honours acquired by your *ungrateful conduct*. No, I muſt here draw the veil, and *a black one it is*, over the ſcene: and if I were to paint the flag which ſhould be carried before you when exalted in your throne of laurel, I would write upon it, in great capitals, Slavery, *Ingratitude*, Ariſtocracy, triumphant over the Liberties of the Borough of Shrewſbury."

Having thus noticed a few of thoſe choice flowers which decorate the pages of " Hard Meaſure," let us ſelect ſome of thoſe equally elegant alluſions which form the principal materials of Mr. John Hill's Letters.

ELEGANT

ELEGANT EXTRACTS

FROM THE EPISTLES OF MR. J. HILL.

Page 37, He aſks "whether the aſſertion of Mr. W. Hill, when denying facts which have tended to calumniate his (Mr. J. Hill's) reputation, and to leſſen his influence with his Conſtituents, is not deſtitute of even the appearance of truth, and leaves him (Mr. W. Hill) and his friends, in rather an awkward predicament.

Page 45, Speaking of Mr. W. Hill's Advertiſement, he ſays, "it urges charges in the boldeſt and moſt awkward ſtyle of crimination, remote equally from *truth* and *decency*."

Page 46, Still ſpeaking of Mr. W. Hill's Advertiſement he refers us to his ſecond paragraph, "where," he ſays, "the pooreſt ſophiſm is uſed to blind the eyes of his readers, and elude the evidence of a plain matter of fact; a ſophiſm ſo groſs, as *not* to be detected by the moſt undiſcerning, and of ſo diſhonourable a complexion as to add *inſult* to *injury*."

And, in the ſame page, ſpeaking of Mr. W. Hill, he ſays, "thus having circulated an *untruth* in his card, though *convicted of a diſhonourable aſſertion*, he ſtands forth with *unbluſhing modeſty*, not to retract, but to avow a tranſaction, which in the laſt ſtage of it ſurpaſſes any thing I ever ſaw, in point of *evaſion* and *diſhonourable repreſentation*."

Page 47, Speaking of Mr. W. Hill's canvaſs, he ſays, "my young relation ſeems, on this ſubject, not ſufficiently aware, that the rectitude of a cauſe does not neceſſarily depend on the number of its patrons, and that works of darkneſs may be perpetrated in open day. The publicity in ſuch a caſe adds to the *audacity* and *guilt* of the tranſaction."

Such is the ſtyle of thoſe Letters which appeared with the ſignature of Mr. John Hill. I ſincerely hope the ſignature

ſignature is the only part of them that proceeded from his pen. Nothing can be more ridiculous or impolitic than his pretending to paſs them off as his own, eſpecially ſince he has betrayed himſelf ſo groſsly to the public by the letter* he *commanded* Mr. E. Burton to publiſh. Let any perſon compare that *wretched ſcrap* of compoſition with any of thoſe which have been inſerted in "Hard Meaſure," as the offspring of his brain, and then admire the contraſt.

From a ſtrict attention to accuracy, it was ſent to the preſs as minutely correſponding with the manuſcript copy, as was conſiſtent with the rules of decorum. The public muſt admire the elegance of the ſtyle, its grammatical purity, and orthographical accuracy. In its original ſtate I doubt whether it would have been intelligible, and even now, as far as obſcurity forms a ſource of the ſublime,† it is the *ſublimeſt* compoſition I ever met with.

And yet this is the man who pretends to launch forth in the field of criticiſm! who ventures to talk‡ of tropes and metaphors, flowers of rhetoric, and decorations of ſtyle! Good Heavens! that a perſon of his years ſhould venture upon ſo difficult and dangerous an enterprize, before he is verſed in his *Horn-book*, or has even *learned to ſpell* with common propriety.

* Vide Mr. E. Burton's Letters, page 47.

† Burke's Eſſay, &c. ‡ Page 45.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

IN daily Expectation that ſome Perſon, calculated by his Talents and Experience, would come forward to refute the Inſinuations, which Sir Richard Hill has circulated with ſo much aſſiduity, I have hitherto remained a ſilent, but indignant Obſerver.

We have ſeen the Agents of Hypocriſy meanly occupied in propagating a Tale of Calumny and Detraction. We have marked and deprecated the Influence of thoſe Miſrepreſentations, which, unanſwered, might finally operate upon unſuſpecting minds. But, to heighten the Climax of a diſguſting Drama, we have beheld an Individual, in the Decline of Life, at a Seaſon when the Retroſpect of paſt Errors uſually conduces to correct and to amend the human Heart, artfully endeavouring to ſully the Reputation of an amiable young Man.

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A taſk ſo repugnant to every Feeling of Senſibility, requires no common portion of Apathy. I am conſcious there does not exiſt one, among the number of thoſe whom I have now the honour to addreſs, but muſt turn from ſuch a proſpect with Sentiments of Indignation and Contempt. But when, in addition to all this, the Calumniator declares himſelf a Relative of the Perſon whoſe good name he is ſo anxious to vilify — when he profeſſes an affection for the object of his reproach, we turn from the diſguſting contemplation with emotions too painful to admit of a deſcription.

The Object of all this odium is juſt opening his public career; at a time when reputation is of peculiar importance. Fortunately for him, as well as for every branch of his family, the opinions of men have already decided, and placed their character far beyond the reach of ſcribbling defamers. The impotent aſſaults of any pamphlet writer avail not againſt the impenetrable ſuperſtructure of their good name. It is erected upon the liberal minds of thoſe, who delight to behold in the children of NOEL HILL, the Virtues and the Talents that dignified the boſom of their lamented Father.

But while we deſpiſe the inſidious machinations of wicked men, we are compelled to avert the baneful effects of their malevolence. Calumnies have been promulgated which even conſcious virtue cannot diſregard: like the ſtings of venomous inſects, they produce conſequences the moſt important from cauſes the moſt contemptible. "Thoſe who cannot ſtrike with force, can however poiſon their

their weapon, and, weak as they are, give mortal wounds." * In the firſt moments of reflection, I am at a loſs which moſt demands our admiration, the INSOLENCE or FOLLY of ſuch conduct. Conſcious as the author muſt be, that the *Statement* he has fabricated will vaniſh at the teſt of Truth, as the enchantment is diſſolved by the operation of the Taliſman; ſo glaring an attempt to impoſe upon the Public, evinces more temerity than might have been expected from a perſon of his experience.

And yet it is not againſt miſrepreſentation alone that I would direct the reproof ſo amply merited. It is the medium, by which he has attempted to convey it, that ſo loudly calls for chaſtiſement. Did no mode ſuggeſt itſelf by which he might attract the notice of his Brother's Conſtituents, but by endeavouring to ſubvert the character of his Rival? Was there no weapon within his reach of ſufficient edge to effect an ungrateful purpoſe, but the wretched expedient of Defamation? What muſt be the nature of thoſe reflections which Conſcience uſhers to his pillow; when that awful monitor reminds him of the innumerable profeſſions of morality and virtue which are conſtantly falling from his tongue?

UNFORTUNATE OLD MAN! Indignant as I feel, Pity draws the curtain over a trial ſo unequal to his conſtancy. I haſten to a taſk more in concert with my feelings — to the Refutation of thoſe charges, which he has adduced againſt Men of HONOUR and PRINCIPLE, and to the overthrow of that STATEMENT, which, in the Face of my Country, in the Face of the Electors of Shrewſbury, and to his very Teeth, I pronounce a MOST GROSS MISREPRESENTATION.

Bound

* Johnſon's Life of Boerhave.

Bound by no ties of obligation to the party whoſe vindication I undertake, and actuated only by motives of diſintereſted friendſhip, I proceed to expoſe and to annihilate that inconſiſtent farrago of unfounded aſſertion, invective, and ſlander, which has been intruded upon your attention. In ſo doing, I ſhall produce ſuch a ſeries of ſtubborn facts, that the unauthentic *Statement* you have lately ſeen will ſhrink before them. They wear a conſiſtency inſeparable from truth, and come from that degree of authority which the importance of the controverſy ſo juſtly demands.

With theſe ſentiments, and upon theſe inſtigations, I come forward to plead the cauſe of the fatherleſs againſt one who has never been a father. Had he remained contented with the vain ſatisfaction which the "*cacoethes ſcribendi*" ſeems to have afforded him through life, a thouſand volumes might have added to the lumber of his multifarious productions, unread, unnoticed, and unanſwered. I wiſh not to depreciate his eminence as an author, or to obſtruct his feeble flight towards the regions of Parnaſſus. But when the characters of thoſe whom all the world eſteemed, are ſubject to the influence of unmerited cenſure; when I behold the man, who ſhould have foſtered their riſing reputation, endeavouring to nip its bloſſoms in the bud, it is not to be wondered at that I am induced to make my firſt appearance in a ſcene of ſtrife and diſputation.

You have heard the ſolemn manner in which he has pledged himſelf for his veracity. Pious apoſtrophes, and awful ejaculations, conſtitute the uſual reſources of guilty men. It is a maxim univerſally admitted, that "*much vouching argues a bad cauſe.*" Plain truth ſpeaks for itſelf,

and

and contemns the plauſible chicanery upon which falſehood leans for a ſupport. I have never been accuſtomed to interlard my aſſertions with impious appeals to the Divine Providence. For the truth of what I am about to advance, I make no other profeſſions than what the ſimple duties of man to man require. I produce it upon that good faith and honour which ſhould bind together all the members of ſociety; feeling perfectly conſcious that "whatſoever things are true, whatſoever things are juſt, whatſoever things are lovely, and of good report," demand no other paſſport to public credit, than their own peculiar luſtre.

Upon this ground, therefore, Gentlemen, and with theſe ſentiments, I undertake to anſwer and to refute all the charges brought forward by Sir Richard Hill. And I pledge myſelf to do this in a manner equally copious and ſatisfactory; for I will purſue him, line by line, through every part of his inſidious miſrepreſentation.

I muſt confeſs I was ſtruck with no ſmall degree of aſtoniſhment, after reading the ſolemn declaration and apoſtrophe to the Almighty, which pronounced, *That the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth*, was to be delivered, at finding him deviating from theſe principles in his very firſt paragraph.

Really, Gentlemen, I feel it extremely repugnant to intrude upon your patience, or to haraſs my own feelings, by paying the ſmalleſt attention to the aſſertion he has introduced in

the firſt page of his pamphlet. We are too well acquainted with the tranſactions that have taken place, both in Shrewſbury and its neighbourhood, to liſten to any man, who has the effrontery to declare, that the Friends of Mr. William Hill, " after undermining and working underground, form- " ing ſecret combinations and alliances, yet hardly daring " to ſtalk abroad, except by night, had rendered abortive " every attempt to preſerve the peace."

To what purpoſe is this inſinuation of " *night work*" introduced, but as a maſter-piece of fineſſe, to throw off a ſimilar charge which had been juſtly made againſt his brother, by Mr. William Hill, in his addreſs of December 15th; which evidently attached to him by his own confeſſion, or apology, in anſwer, as it appeared on the 17th of the ſame month.

As to the more ſerious charge of diſturbing " the " peace of Shrewſbury and its neighbourhood;" it never was the wiſh of Mr. W. Hill, or any of his friends, prematurely to ſtep forward, much leſs to create any uproar or diſquiet. But I will defer entering at large into the facts upon this buſineſs, until I meet them more regularly in the ſequel.*

We readily accord with the panegyrick upon Sir W. Pulteney's underſtanding, in the ſecond page; his parliamentary conduct has been every way honourable to himſelf, and beneficial to his conſtituents. Nor can there be a ſtronger inſtance

* At page 23.

inſtance produced, to ſhew Mr. W. Hill's ſentiments with reſpect to this worthy perſon, or to betray his earneſt deſire of implicitly coinciding in your wiſhes, than the very early and open manner in which he declared to that gentleman, and to the Town, that he meditated no attack upon *him.* It is evident the offence reſts in oppoſing the other Member, and for this reaſon Sir Richard acts wiſely in appealing to your paſſions, whether on having *poſſeſſion*, or as he more artfully terms it, "approbation of near twelve years experience," he ought now to meet with a Competitor? It has been well obſerved by an anonymous writer — "The Logic that aims "at proving that Man the Champion of your *rights*, as *free* "*Electors*, who wiſhes to preclude you from exerciſing the *Right* "at all, is curious enough; for, without Competition, how "can free choice be exerted? And if Mr. J. Hill, having "once crept into the Borough, is to remain its Repreſentative "as long as he thinks proper, this ſaid *free Right* is "unqueſtionably ſo long ſuſpended." —— I muſt indeed go further, and inſiſt, that if *Poſſeſſion* is to ſuſpend *Competition*, then our Liberties, our Franchiſes, and all Freedom of Election, is totally annulled. Then you, and I, and every one of us, have loſt our ſuffrage; are unrepreſented; are dead in law; are *ipſo facto* caſhiered.

As to Mr. John Hill's attention to the wiſhes of his Conſtituents, the *only one* I ever heard of their expreſſing, he did *not* comply with; which was, that he would vote for the repeal of the Shop Tax. The BENEFITS he may have rendered would have been better ſpecified, if one, among the Number, had been ſtated. At leaſt it would have been leſs diſguſting, than a detail of Services ſo frequently offered to your Notice in *Empty Words.* The EVIL he committed, has been felt by every inhabitant, in his

his Refuſal to ſhut up the Houſes of Public Entertainment.* —With regard to ſerving individuals,† his readineſs to join his brother in applications for *Places* and *Penſions*, we have no ſort of objection to allow; as we feel ſufficiently conſcious, that it is to perſons of this deſcription he owes the little ſupport he now has. Far be it from me to reprobate or condemn their *Gratitude*; where it is PURE, it is HONOURABLE. But where it is merely a ſpecious profeſſion, aſſumed as a Cloke to cover a contrary diſpoſition towards their opponents, it is the criminal reſource of Hypocrites, baſe and odious in the eyes of all men. Among the numerous packets of letters at Attingham, ſome there are, that might "a tale unfold, whoſe "lighteſt word" would ſtrike aſtoniſhment into the minds of every reader, and make the hairs of many heads

——————. "to ſtand on end,
"Like Quills upon the fretful porcupine."

Hitherto they have ſlept in their inviolable depoſit, ſacred only to the inſpection of their poſſeſſor. But if the demon Spleen, from his Throne at Hawkeſtone, ordains that every material or immaterial Tale, every little domeſtic Anecdote, is to be raked forth, and uſhered to public notice, neceſſity may render ſuch a Publication indiſpenſable. Then curioſity will ſatisfy her eager appetite with ample food. Then, arrayed in their native colours, the elegant compoſitions of Sir Richard, fraught with apt quotations from *Rocheſter* and the *Bible*, will make their appearance, ſelected from the maſs of his multifarious productions. The public will then determine whether his former Ludlow antagoniſt aſſerted with reaſon, that

* It is beyond conception, how much the price of proviſions, and the various articles of life, was raiſed, by this imprudent and unwarrantable meaſure.

† Page 2.

that " *in Sir Richard Hill, the County of Salop have ſent but a ſo ſo ſort of Repreſentative.*"

Upon the firſt appearance of his pamphlet, but one opinion prevailed among the public. " Deprive it," ſaid they, " of its wretched attempts at low wit, its abuſe, " and ſcurrility, and we have nothing left to anſwer." Under the influence of this opinion, it was ſinking faſt into oblivion; when ſome of its partiſans endeavoured to inculcate, *that the Charge of Ingratitude was not to be refuted.*

In order to ſupport this ſcandalous Imputation, a groſs Miſrepreſentation is artfully inſinuated. You are made to believe that Mr. John Hill was Guardian* to the young men at Attingham. That† " this truſt during their " minority he fulfilled with unwearied diligence, uniting " the utmoſt tenderneſs to their perſons, with the trueſt " regard for their intereſts." The real ſtate of the caſe will enable you to judge of the facts.

Mr. John Hill is a relation of Mr. William Hill, whoſe father left him joint executor with Mr. Edward Burton, and his grandfather nominated him, with Lord Wentworth, truſtees (for form's ſake) for the eſtates he entailed. Mr. Edward Burton took the trouble and the

* Pages 3, 4.

† The word immediately preceding the ſentence is *Truſtee*; but in page 4, Mr. John Hill is ſtyled *Protector*, and Mr. W. Hill his *Ward* in p. 23. Which implies that Mr. John Hill was Guardian to his *Ward* Mr. William Hill; as the term *ward*, according to Johnſon, is applicable only to Guardians. What Mr. John Hill really *was*, I have ſtated; what he *is*, his own conduct ſufficiently declares.

care of the truſt; and only applied to his colleague *to ſign a few neceſſary parchments*, as occaſion required. The ſigning of theſe parchments conſtituted the ſole executive ſervices of Mr. John Hill. This was the truſt, that during their minority, he fulfilled with ſuch *unwearied diligence*, and by this uncommon exertion of Attachment and Fidelity, he evinced "*his Tenderneſs for their Perſons*, and the trueſt regard for their Intereſts."

To each of theſe executors was bequeathed the ſum of two hundred pounds. But it being diſcovered, that theſe legacies could not be paid out of the effects of the late Peer, the preſent Lord gave them out of his own fortune. And the expreſſions of gratitude from Mr. John Hill, on that occaſion, are ſtill preſerved. It is well known, and I preſume will be admitted, that the taſk of keeping all the accounts, together with the burden of the buſineſs, fell upon the co-executor.

Lady Berwick was appointed SOLE GUARDIAN to all the children. When ſhe left England, ſhe committed the truſt of her ſons to the preſent Biſhop of Glouceſter, who undertook the Charge conſigned to him with that zeal peculiar to himſelf, and whoſe amiable Character cannot receive additional luſtre from any eulogium of mine.* I ſubmit to your deciſion, whether, in point of liberality, as well as obligation, after the ſolemn promiſe to relate *the Whole Truth*, theſe circumſtances ought not to have been ſtated, inſtead of the artful inſinuations that blacken the pages of Sir Richard's pamphlet.

Before

* The illiberal remark directed by Mr. De Courcy, againſt the exalted reputation of this reſpected prelate, reminds us of "*a hungry viper, who vainly attempted to maſticate a file.*"

Before I quit this topic, I cannot refrain from giving you my opinion, and anticipating your own, reſpecting the conduct of the late Peer, in appointing Mr. J. Hill one of the truſtees of his children's property. Whatever opinion we may entertain of Mr. John Hill's honour and private character, was it not natural for him to think, that, by nominating him a truſtee of his children's property, he ſhould compel him to guard, and not to injure, their natural intereſts?

I have been minute in explaining this affair of the *pretended Guardianſhip*, becauſe the imputation it gave birth to is of the deepeſt dye, and requires your moſt ſerious attention. I now flatter myſelf, I have ſufficiently done away the whole of that Miſrepreſentation, together with the charge of Ingratitude, which was founded upon it.

In the next paragraph* we find Sir Richard brandiſhing his pen with uncommon vehemence, in hopes that a few lines of boiſterous declamation, and very illiberal language, may at once remove the opprobrium which attaches to him in having ſupported his brother againſt a ſon of the late Lord Berwick. Yet, as if he felt ſenſible that ſome degree of difficulty occurred in the undertaking, he has contrived to fill the next ten pages with tedious and futile explanation.

This whole affair, with all the evaſion and ſubterfuge as to a *promiſe* or *compromiſe*, would have been fully explained, had not Sir Richard, and his brother, prohibited the

* Page 4.

the publication of thoſe letters which Mr. Burton wiſhed to have ſubmitted to public inſpection.

The circumſtances that attended this tranſaction deſerve your particular attention.

I wrote to Mr. Edward Burton, upon the ſubject of the Caernarvon Converſation, and requeſted, that he would ſupply me with ſuch letters, or information, upon that ſubject, as might ſerve to explain, before an impartial public, the real particulars of that myſterious buſineſs. I have his permiſſion to inſert the anſwer I received.

TO THE AUTHOR OF

" MEASURE FOR MEASURE."

SIR,

I am duly honoured with your favour of the 2d Inſtant. I was at firſt a little doubtful, whether I ought to furniſh an anonymous Writer with the correſpondence between Mr. J. Hill, Sir R. Hill, and myſelf, on the ſubject of the Caernarvon Converſation; which is what you requeſt information upon. But having obtained public leave from Sir R. to publiſh what paſſed between us; and having no right to ſuppoſe either he, or Mr. John Hill, have written what they are aſhamed of; having alſo ever declared, that I cared not who knew all I had ever advanced upon the occaſion; and moreover conſidering, that there will be nothing anonymous in this part of your publication, I ſhall not further heſitate to forward thoſe letters, which will furniſh you with the moſt material information on the ſubject, provided I obtain Mr. J. Hill's permiſſion for that purpoſe, to whom I have written upon the occaſion.

You will obſerve, that I have ſuffered Sir Richard to enjoy the laſt word, becauſe I plainly perceived " he hated to be reformed, and caſt " my

" my words behind him."—In his letter of the 5th ult. he paſſes over all the various particulars I had endeavoured to clear up; totally diſregarding what I had a ſecond time particularly requeſted to have explained; and only catches at two or three looſe words in my letter. If he would not " get a *tete a tete* converſation by heart, nor put them down in his " pocket book," provided, to inſtance a caſe in print, it materially concerned the preſent conteſt, or any weighty intereſt of his brother, or moſt intimate and confidential friend; then I can only add, that, in my opinion, he would be to blame, and the only perſon I know of, that would not think ſo. The letter of the 6th ult. was evidently written for the ſake of the Shakeſperian title with which it concludes. How the ſubject could occupy his pen through a whole ſheet of paper, with the moſt ſerious animadverſions, and in the ſequel be deemed " *nothing*," my comprehenſion is not ſufficient to explain. But theſe various opinions are now to be decided by LESS PARTIAL Perſons than ourſelves. To them I chearfully ſubmit with the appeal of ÆMILIUS SCAURUS againſt VARIUS of SUCRO;—— " *Now tell me, my good countrymen! which of the two will* " *you believe?*" —— Val. Max. B. 3. C. 7.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, humble Servant,

Shrewſbury, Feb. 4, 1796. EDWARD BURTON.

P. S. You ſhall receive the letters, or hear from me again, as ſoon as an anſwer arrives from Mr. J. Hill.

In a ſhort time afterwards Mr. Edward Burton favoured me with a ſecond letter, which I have alſo his permiſſion to inſert.

TO THE AUTHOR OF

" MEASURE FOR MEASURE."

SIR,

I am ſorry I am prevented from having the opportunity of ſubmitting my correſpondence with Mr. John, and Sir Richard Hill, to an impartial Public: as in anſwer to that letter which I informed you I had written to the former of theſe gentlemen, I underſtand, " that neither he " nor Sir Richard, will conſent to their publication by any anonymous author."

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, humble Servant,

Shrewſbury, Feb. 7, 1796. EDWARD BURTON.

I think, Gentlemen, we ſhall be tolerably unanimous in deciding upon the merits of the queſtion before us; and determine without any difficulty on which ſide the truth lies.

Hic eſt, aut nuſquam, quod quærimus. HOR.

Indeed I ſee no reaſon why we are to lament the refuſal Sir Richard and his brother have given, with reſpect to the publication of their letters; except that, by fairly ſubmitting them to your peruſal, they might have had ſome opportunity (if it were poſſible) of doing away the imputation, which evidently attaches to them in withholding thoſe papers from your notice.

The paltry pretence of ſuppreſſing them becauſe they were called for by " an anonymous writer," is ſufficiently refuted by Mr. E. Burton, when he ſtates,* with his uſual candour,

* Vide Mr. Burton's firſt Letter.

candour, " that there would have been nothing anonymous in this part of my publication." But the plain fact is, they are aſhamed of their own conduct, and willingly hide as much of it as they are able to conceal. In ſo doing, they betray even a want of common policy; and induce me, with the ſmall portion of compaſſion I muſt ever entertain for men of their ſtamp, to entreat them, if they have any regard left for the opinions of the world, to permit thoſe letters to be publiſhed.

I am aſtoniſhed, conſidering the degree of envy they betray upon other occaſions, that they were not alarmed at the amiable light in which Mr. E. Burton muſt appear, when oppoſed to them. Conſcious as he was, of having never written, or ſaid, any thing to be aſhamed of, he felt totally indifferent by what means, or by whom, his ſentiments, or declarations, were uſhered to the Public.

Juſtum et tenacem propoſiti virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus *inſtantis tyranni*,
Mente quatit ſolidâ ———

HOR.

We have, however, this indiſputable fact before us, which no Equivocation has been able to ſubvert, no Subterfuge can ever overthrow. Sir Richard Hill declared at Caernarvon, " that if one of Lord Berwick's ſons " had been of age to have offered himſelf, Mr. John " Hill would not have thought of the Borough;" and further added, " that if ever one of them ſhould here- " after think of it, he was ſure his brother would not be " the means of keeping him out." This declaration was not,

not, as he has artfully inſinuated, " drawn out in a few minutes converſation;" but *voluntarily mentioned, after a whole day ſpent together by invitation.*

This fact is tranſmitted to us from the authority of a man, whoſe *bare aſſertion* is at any time as eſtimable as the *baronet's bond*; whoſe accuracy is proverbial among us, and whoſe word is received as implicitly as the goſpel, from one end of the country to the other.

In what light, then, does Sir Richard appear, when, under the maſk of religious purity, he appeals to the All-ſeeing Being for the truth of that *Statement*, which muſt now ſeem ſufficiently contemptible; when he meanly attempts to caſt an imputation of inaccuracy, or cunning, upon ſo reſpectable a member of our ſociety, as Mr. Edward Burton? whoſe character and veracity, oppoſed to his own, will preponderate in the balance of public opinion, as long as virtue and honour are eſtimable among men.

How perfectly did the late Lord Berwick evince his knowledge of the human heart, when he exclaimed, " *Ah! " Ned, Ned, when John Hill has had long poſſeſſion, " I fear Sir Richard will think very differently!*" That day is at length arrived; he *has* altered his opinion, and WITH A VENGEANCE TOO! for, not contented in oppoſing the ſons of your old favourite, he is endeavouring to vilify the good name he left behind him; to undermine the welfare of his family; and to ſcatter his vulgar invective againſt all thoſe who have principle enough to ſupport, and to defend, the injured children of NOEL HILL.

In

In the poſtſcript of his letter to his brother,* he thinks proper to aſſert, " that, during the ſpace of ten " or twelve years, not a ſyllable about this moſt ſubmiſſive " reſignation has ever been mentioned, or, as far as it " appears, was ever thought on, till the preſent occaſion " *oiled up ſome ruſty Memories.*"

Taking no notice of the impotent inſinuation againſt Mr. Edward Burton, in the laſt words; I deny the fact of " *its never having been mentioned or thought on.*" Had thoſe Letters been publiſhed, which Sir Richard and his brother prevent you from inſpecting, they would have removed every doubt, which may ariſe from ſuch an unfounded aſſertion.

With theſe facts in contemplation, you will obſerve, Gentlemen, that throughout his whole pamphlet there is hardly a page without ſome miſrepreſentation. It is an unpleaſant and a weary taſk, to take up your attention by refuting them; becauſe they are really unworthy your notice; and had I not pledged myſelf to purſue him " line by line," I ſhould have deemed this laſt, with many others, too glaring an abſurdity to require an anſwer.

This point being ſettled beyond all queſtion, I leave you to judge of the ſort of foundation upon which Sir Richard makes his aſſertions; and will now put it to his own breaſt, whether, with the evidence before him, ſetting aſide all ideas of any *bargain*, or *compact*, (becauſe the late Lord Berwick was incapable of entering into ſuch meaſures,) whether, I ſay, it was not LIBERALLY UNDERSTOOD BETWEEN MAN AND MAN, that Mr. John Hill

 would

* Page 14.

would not oppoſe the intereſts or welfare (be they what they may) of the children of his Benefactor.

If he has the audacity to deny this fact, I can only ſay, Gentlemen, we are no longer to wonder at ſeeing him in his preſent ungrateful predicament; oppoſing his years and his experience; his wealth and his influence; againſt the children of his friend, againſt the amiable and unſuſpecting purity of youth.

The meaſures they purſued with regard to the Caernarvon Converſation, were of the ſame complexion with the reſt of their proceedings. Their whole conduct has been one ſeries of ſhuffling, of conceſſion, and retractation. Thus, at the commencement of this conteſt, they propoſed to defer all public meaſures, by advertiſing or canvaſſing, and then retracted the conſent they had given to this effect. Thus, Sir Richard firſt expreſſed a wiſh to publiſh Mr. E. Burton's correſpondence; publickly granted permiſſion for that purpoſe; and then, finding (upon ſecond thoughts) that he made but a ſorry figure in theſe letters, poſitively prohibited their being laid before the Electors.

Notwithſtanding this, as I was indulged with the peruſal of them for ſome time; and as I took notes of the moſt material parts of their contents; I could make many comments and obſervations upon the ſubject. But, requeſted by Mr. E. Burton to regard the prohibition,* I am

* That Mr. Edward Burton's amiable character may not, even by our Opponent's Partiſans, be brought into a compariſon with Sir Richard's, I beg

I am totally ſilent as to the matter contained in them.†

Having, however, proved by the moſt incontrovertible evidence, that Sir Richard Hill, during the lifetime of the late Peer, had given every encouragement that might indute Mr. William Hill to offer himſelf a Candidate for the Borough of Shrewſbury; and having alſo ſhewn, that ſuch an expectation had conſtantly been entertained by his family; was it not both natural and expedient for him to offer his ſervices, as ſoon as the laws of his country deemed him eligible? Add to this, the great pains and expence, which the anceſtors of the Attingham Family have beſtowed to promote the intereſt, and to procure the good-will, of the Electors; their near and extenſive family property; the friendſhip and recommendation of almoſt all the neighbouring Gentlemen of independence and reſpectability; and we muſt admit, that Mr. W. Hill came forward upon the moſt laudable pretenſions, as a Candidate for that Borough, which his father and grandfather had ſo long repreſented.

But as the Attingham and Hawkſtone families, had always enjoyed the reciprocal intereſt which their relationſhip claimed, they were early made acquainted with Mr. W. Hill's intention; in expectation that Mr. J. Hill would not oppoſe

beg leave to notice the different line of conduct each of theſe gentlemen have lately purſued. — Mr. Burton applied for permiſſion to publiſh a correſpondence in which he was materially concerned, and being refuſed, regarded the prohibition. — The Baronet, in a ſimilar ſituation, by an admirable ſtroke of chicanery, publiſhed his own anſwers; which formed half the correſpondence in queſtion.

† I cannot help, however, referring my readers to the notes in "The Hilliad," upon this occaſion.

oppoſe his couſin's intereſt. Or, at leaſt, that he would offer ſome reaſonable means of avoiding a breach between the families. Inſtead of this, the only anſwer the wary Baronet would give to every mild and conciliating propoſal, was "*wait till a future period, and then you may come in quietly.*" A requeſt which the Attingham party, and every candid reader, muſt underſtand to allude to the death of Sir W. Pulteney.

Diſguſted as we feel in comparing this ſpeech with what had paſſed at Caernarvon; are we not ſhocked at being deſired to look forward, with anxious expectation, to the deceaſe of ſo worthy a man, and ſo able and independent a Member of Parliament? Sir Richard ought alſo to have conſidered, that the Electors of Shrewſbury, and the reſpectable neighbouring Gentlemen who now honour Mr. W. Hill with their ſupport, would not eaſily ſubmit to ſee the Repreſentation of both Town and County veſted in one Family.

Thus, Gentlemen, have I proved to you, that Mr. W. Hill reaſonably aſpired to the honour of repreſenting you; that he could have choſen no other opportunity than what now offers; and that he had every reaſon to expect the Hawkſtone Family would have ſupported, inſtead of oppoſing him.

Proceeding in our taſk of refutation, we find the Baronet* making a compariſon of the money ſpent for the laſt ten years, between the Houſes of Prees and Hawkſtone, and that of Attingham.

The

* Page 15.

The tenor of the old adage that "*two to one are odds*," is ſtrongly verified in the preſent inſtance. But even with this, and many other advantages, which I am going to ſtate, on the ſide of the Baronet, his aſſertion is totally void of truth.

You will pleaſe, Gentlemen, to recollect, that out of the ten years he has mentioned, at leaſt ſeven elapſed, during which period, Lord Berwick was occupied in proſecuting his ſtudies at the Univerſity, or completing his education by foreign travel.*

If, during the time I have mentioned, hoſpitality was a ſtranger to the walls of Attingham; if thoſe doors were then cloſed, which now receive the welcome entrance of conviviality and cheerfulneſs; (though unpoſſeſſed of the ſelf-moving principle that actuates the hinges at Hawkſtone†) the imputation falls upon the events of Providence; and knowing, as we do, of the minority which then exiſted, it would be not only impious but abſurd to controvert it. If, moreover, ſince his return to England, he has been

* To cenſure any man for not ſpending money in England, when he is on the other ſide the Alps, is rather "*Hard Meaſure.*" I beg leave to aſk Sir Richard, what money he ſpent at Hawkſtone, while he and his brother were "*killing fleas in Calabria*," or "*toaſting Album Græcum in Sicily?*" For theſe curious and intereſting particulars, vide "*Travels thro' Sicily and Calabria*," *by the Rev. Brian Hill, in one volume*, LARGE 8vo.

† The enchanted door, which the Baronet mentions in page 20 of his *real* ſtatement, has afforded no inconſiderable degree of mirth. I am afraid the perſon employed to alter and correct his manuſcripts, inadvertently paſſed over that ingenious paragraph, as it bears every mark of being the genuine production of his own brain.

leſs reſident in Shropſhire, than his wiſhes prompted him to be; let it be told to his honour, that, having accepted of a commiſſion in your Provincial Regiment, he was engaged in the very laudable and conſtitutional employment, of ſerving his Country and his King.

Three years remain to be accounted for, out of ten mentioned by the Baronet, as the period in which the Houſes of Prees and Hawkſtone ſurpaſſed Attingham in pecuniary expenditure. I will venture to aſſert, that the money ſpent during theſe three years alone, exceeded the joint expenditure of the aforeſaid Houſes in a tenfold proportion. Alas! Gentlemen, thoſe three years bring to our recollection the memory of a man univerſally beloved and regretted; they were the laſt of a life ſpent in the exerciſe of every ſocial virtue. The very name of NOEL HILL is retained among us in grateful remembrance; and the memorial he has left behind him will be cheriſhed by good men, when the invidious aſperſions of his preſent calumniators are buried in oblivion. Is it neceſſary for me to prove his Liberality? Would it not be ſuperfluous to declare, that his good offices were more ſenſibly felt by the Town of Shrewſbury and its Neighbourhood, during any twelve months of the time I have mentioned, than the boaſted PROFUSION of Prees and Hawkſtone, in the courſe of as many years?

Oh could this "*Enemy to the juſt Rights of Freemen,*" (as Sir Richard untruly and invidiouſly ſtyles him) but once appear before his vile Calumniators, how would they tremble and fall down before him! It would be difficult (retorting the Baronet's words upon him) to affirm

affirm which would have been greateſt, his ſurprize or his grief, in finding, that of two brothers, who profeſſed a friendſhip for him, one had ſince endeavoured to depreciate the characters of his children, and the other appropriated to his own advantage the intereſt he ought to have exerted in their favour.

Taking our leave (and I hope a final one) of this convincing proof of the Baronet's Oſtentation and *Veracity*; we find him in the ſequel of the ſame page, and at the beginning of the next,* employed in eſtimating the income, and determining the reſidence, both of John and William Hill. The latter of theſe Gentlemen he repreſents as "having no houſe, or reſidence, that he can call his own," but as a perſon who is "here, and there, and every where, according as fancy or caprice may lead him."

We have here at leaſt a compliment upon Mr. W. Hill's activity; and as for his income, when the expences of Mr. John Hill's numerous family are deducted, I much doubt whether his pecuniary reſources are inferior to his rival's. With regard to reſidence, Mr. W. Hill's has been chiefly in Shrewſbury, ſince he returned from the Univerſity, and long before any conteſt was thought of.

The next abſurdity I ſhall bring forward to your notice, is worth your attention; becauſe it breathes the true ſpirit of inconſiſtency which characteriſes the productions of its author. The Baronet ſtates,† that Mr. W. Hill's "rank entitles him to go into a private room before his "relation Mr. John Hill; but this RANK gives him "no

* Page 16. † Page 17.

" no pretenſions to go firſt into the great Aſſembly of the " Nation."

In this opinion we all readily coincide. But mark the ſequel! In the very next page,* more fickle than a weathercock, he preſents us with a ſentiment diametrically oppoſite.

" Is *inferiority of extraction*," ſays he, " the fault of any " man? certainly not; but *it is a reaſon why he ſhould not* " *raiſe his creſt too high! ! !*"

Thus he firſt endeavours to prejudice you againſt Mr. W. Hill, *on account of his high birth*, and then, almoſt in the ſame breath, ſtigmatizes him *for having no birth at all!!*

Spectatum admiſſi riſum teneatis, amici?

HOR.

I am unable to ſay upon what pretenſions Sir Richard goes " *into the great Aſſembly of the Nation*;" but I think if he entertains that auguſt Body with half the inconſiſtencies and rhapſodies which form the materials of his " Letter to " the Electors of Shrewſbury," the Houſe of Commons are provided with an admirable fund of entertainment.

A ridiculous boaſt of anceſtry next amuſes us, which is another proof of the Baronet's inconſiſtency, in point of character. The *meek*, the *humble*, *unaſpiring chriſtian*, void of *worldly vanity*, and deſpiſing the *temporal honours of this life*, ſuddenly ſpurns from him the mortifying principles of ſelf-denial, and graſps at all

" The boaſt of heraldry, and pomp of power."

GRAY.

With

* Page 18.

With a degree of arrogance that might characteriſe a German Prince, he unfolds the pompous roll of pedigree, to diſplay at once " the pride and naughtineſs of his heart." Yet even here* the ſame inaccuracy prevails, which we have already ſo often reprobated. That the Hills and the Harwoods† intermarried, and by that marriage a conſiderable ſhare of property came to the Harwoods, is very true. But from the ſame channel the preſent family at Hawkſtone derived all their wealth; therefore in this point they are equally under obligations to the memory of the Hon. R. Hill, Ambaſſador in Holland.

Nevertheleſs the Baronet roundly aſſerts, that " every " acre of land Lord Berwick and his Family poſſeſs, " in Shropſhire, Staffordſhire, and Warwickſhire, ſome " late changes and purchaſes excepted, the patronage they " enjoy, the arms they bear, the name they take, the " houſe at Tern, as well as that at Cleveland-Court, " London, ALL came to them from the Hills of " Hawkſtone." After what I ſhall hereafter adduce, I leave my Readers to determine on the Accuracy of this Statement.

Without proceeding any further, we might aſk Sir Richard, from what branch of his *illuſtrious* family, the arms of Lovelace, Wentworth, and Noel, were derived; and by

* Page 17.

† The family of Harwood, ſo much diſparaged, and which we are told " was meliorated and its nature changed," by ingrafting with the Hills, were formerly of Harewood, in Yorkſhire, and came into this Kingdom with William the Conqueror.

what means they became included among the quarterings of the Attingham Family?

The houſe of Tern, with the demeſne and manor of Atcham, came to the preſent poſſeſſor by the purchaſe of his grandfather, or great grandfather; who purchaſed it from John Dawes; who himſelf inherited it by marriage with one of the co-heireſſes of Mr. John Bieſt, of Atcham-Grange, in the ſixteenth century. This can be proved by the purchaſe deeds, or by the original deeds of partition, in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Cludde, of Orleton, or Mr. Burton, of Longner, whoſe anceſtors married the other co-heireſſes, and divided the eſtates by deed of partition.

How far the introduction of ſuch *inaccuracies* entitle the author of "*Hard Meaſure*," to pronounce his work "*A Real Statement of Facts*," can only be explained by his own ſophiſtry.

Inconſiſtency is one of the ſtrongeſt features in the Baronet's character. Had I not been conſcious of this circumſtance, I might have been ſtruck, as many others were, with the ſingular diſorder which appears throughout his writings. Poſſeſſed of principles which readily accommodate themſelves to the object before him, and bleſſed with a memory by no means retentive; he frequently forgets at the end of a ſentence, what he ſet out with at the beginning. Hence ariſes that contradiction of ſentiment, and that ineffable contempt of grammar, which forms the peculiar characteriſtic of his ſtyle. Hence it is, that, in the ſame moment, we find him indulging in all the fury of democracy, and breathing the haughtieſt dictates of deſpotiſm. The moſt ſelect diſciples of PAINE or THELWALL,

WALL, have not declaimed with greater vehemence than Sir Richard, againſt the influence of Ariſtocracy.* Such language ſavours not a little of his old ſeminary at the *Robin Hood*. Yet, at the ſame time, can any thing be more abſurd than the pitch to which he carries his genealogical pride? You ſee him raking up the pedigrees of all his opponents, with as much aſſiduity, as if it had been the moſt atrocious of crimes to exerciſe a commercial occupation, or to be deſcended from ſo reſpectable a member of ſociety as a Salopian tradeſman.† Yet in ſpeaking of his own family obſerve the difference. What arrogance! what oſtentation! as if forſooth it concentrated within itſelf all the cardinal virtues, and "all "the blood of all the Howards."

"The late Lord Berwick‡ was the firſt of that family that was BORN A HILL!"—What a prodigous honour! what could have been ſaid more, if he had been ſpeaking of the PLANTAGENETS or STUARTS?

The Baronet's Council is doubtleſs compoſed of perſons calculated to guide him in a political as well as moral career. All I fear is, that when he determined to iſſue forth the laſt fruit of his lubrucations, he did not think proper to regard their admonitions. And I am the more confirmed

* Page 1, 4, 16, &c. &c.

† This is rendered ſtill more remarkable by knowing the ſource from whence the Baronet himſelf ſprung. Admitting the truth of what he has ſtated, with regard to the anceſtors of your new candidate, is he vain enough to ſuppoſe, the people of Shrewſbury will prefer the grandſon of a Wem apothecary, to the great grandſon of a tradeſman belonging to their own town?

‡ Note to page 17.

confirmed in this hypotheſis, becauſe, after having ſtated * " that the ſervice he had undertaken will be unwelcome " to ſome," he ſeems ſeized with a ſudden reſtive impulſe, and vehemently declares, " if he were to loſe the friendſhip " of thouſands," he would perſiſt in his intention of printing and publiſhing. Moreover, common rumour has circulated an opinion, which ſeems to coincide with his own declaration; namely, that the work in queſtion was intruded upon the public, contrary to the advice and wiſhes of his friends. I can only lament that I was not a member of the Convention aſſembled upon this occaſion. Had it been properly pointed out to him, that the only motive which prompted him to expoſe himſelf, originated in " vanity and vexation of ſpirit," he would ſurely have uſed ſome precaution, that at leaſt his writings might not betray it. It is highly probable he would then have ſuppreſſed that nugatory and vaunting diſplay of his own pedigree, ſo inconſiſtent with the ſubject in queſtion, and ſo perfectly foreign to the object he profeſſes to have in view; that of ſhewing † " at whoſe door all the confuſion and diſcord lies, in which the Borough of Shrewſbury is involved." I might then have been ſpared the trouble of rummaging over muſty pedigrees to detect his errors; and, what I conſider of infinitely more importance, I might have had ſomething to anſwer more worthy the attention of my readers, than a futile attempt to depreciate the genealogy of the Houſe of Attingham.

We will now congratulate ourſelves upon leaving ſuch an unintereſting topic. If the *Cacoethes Scribendi* ſhould again

* Vide Advertiſement to " Hard Meaſure."

† Ibid.

again induce him to come forth upon the field of controverſy, I will pardon any neglect he may evince with regard to this part of my work, provided, in reply, he does not again emblazon his pages with heraldic diſquiſition.

Ohe, jam ſatis eſt!

HOR.

But to proceed.

" If theſe things are ſo, ſurely the younger *branch* of the family ought not to boaſt itſelf againſt the elder, nor yet the ungrateful *ſtock* to forget the ſcion by which it was meliorated, and its nature changed."

This paſſage, I muſt confeſs, Gentlemen, is altogether beyond my comprehenſion. In the firſt place, does the Baronet mean to inſinuate that the Attingham family are, at the ſame time, both ſtock and branch? What can his meaning be? The ſtock is generally ſuppoſed to be older than the branch, and in this caſe he ſtyles *himſelf* the *ungrateful ſtock*. If that is really his meaning, it is the firſt time I have been able to compliment him for adhering ſtrictly to *truth*.

As it is uſual with commentators, in explaining myſterious paſſages of obſcure authors, to have recourſe to the *lectiones variæ* of different editions; I thought proper to examine the firſt impreſſion of his pamphlet. To my great ſurprize, it left me more in the dark than ever; for here I found the word *Crab* ſubſtituted, inſtead of the epithet *ungrateful*. An ingenious friend reproached me for my want of penetration, and ſuggeſted that the Baronet intended to amuſe his readers with a *pun*. I am ſure we muſt all feel indebted to him for ſuch an exertion of his wit, and exclaim with Pope ——

Sir Balaam now, he talks like other folks,
He takes his chirping pint, and *cracks his jokes!*

But wherefore has he been induced to alter this paſſage in the ſecond edition? what evil genius prompted him to annihilate the *pun*, by inſerting the word *ungrateful?* which, to be ſure, of all the epithets in the Engliſh vocabulary, is the moſt curious, when made applicable *to a tree.*

I am afraid I muſt leave this paſſage in all the uncertainty which hangs over it. Some one of Sir Richard's friends, in *vindication* of his talents as an author, will perhaps have the goodneſs to explain it.

The next paragraph* opens with a curioſity of a different nature, although equally ſingular. Among all the pamphlets which conteſted elections may have given birth to; was there ever remembered an inſtance in which allegory formed a part of their contents? I think the generality of my readers will anſwer in the negative. And yet, becauſe no degree of inconſiſtency may be abſtracted from the Baronet's writings, he prefaces an interrogation, upon Mr. W. Hill's extraction, by taking his leave of ALLEGORY.

But as our preſent object is more a work of refutation than of criticiſm, we will, for the preſent, allow Sir Richard the full ſcope of his powers in *allegory*; provided his pen wanders into no other ſpecies of fiction. We readily admit the incoherent metaphor of an *ungrateful ſtock*, although we cannot ſo eaſily paſs over the circumſtance which afterwards occurs.

I allude

* Page 18.

I allude to the ſupport which the Baronet ſtates as formerly given to the late Lord Berwick, by Sir Rowland Hill.* "When I mentioned this," ſays he, "to Mr. Hill, "in my brother's preſence at Hawkſtone, he *appeared* no "ſtranger to it." Whatever Mr. Hill's appearance might indicate upon that occaſion, I am unable to declare; as I was not preſent during the interview. But this *I am able to declare*; that Mr. William Hill profeſſes himſelf an utter ſtranger to any ſuch ſupport having been received, or acknowledged, by his father. Having given us a ſtriking leſſon in his own conduct, how little we are to judge by outward appearance; Sir Richard might have uſed more caution againſt being biaſſed by it in others. An extract from his correſpondence with the late Lord Berwick, will, however, ſerve to render this matter ſufficiently clear.

In the year 1786, Sir Richard Hill wrote a letter of *ſolicitation* to Mr. William Hill's father, for ſome family livings. As this ſubject was mentioned, upon that occaſion, I will inſert the Baronet's own words, with the anſwer he received.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER,

FROM SIR RICHARD HILL, TO THE LATE LORD BERWICK,

Dated Hawkſtone, January 20, 1786.

"It would be as impertinent in me, as wrong in itſelf, were I upon "any occaſion to call in queſtion your Lordſhip's full right of obliging thoſe "who had been your friends for ſo many years in this county; nay, I ſhould "ſhew the greateſt *inconſiſtency* in ſo doing; eſpecially as few events ever "afforded me greater pleaſure, than your being elected repreſentative for "Shropſhire did. I believe I have your letter to my father before that event "took

* Sequel to page 18.

" took place now in my poſſeſſion, and, when he ſpoke to me on the buſineſs, " I aſſured him it would give me more ſatisfaction *to ſee you in that ſituation than* " *myſelf*, adding, that the families were nearly connected, and that I hoped you " would have his firm ſupport."

The paſſage from Lord Berwick's Letter, which immediately relates to theſe words of the Baronet, is as follows:

EXTRACT OF A LETTER,

FROM LORD BERWICK, TO SIR RICHARD HILL.

" I am very ſenſible that I always had Sir Rowland's, and your good " wiſhes; and I think, I may ſay, in election concerns, our good wiſhes to " each other have been mutual, and reciprocal. Nor do I mean to take " the leaſt away from my obligation to Sir Rowland. And when I mentioned, " *merely for the ſake of explanation, (what I intended, when I mentioned other* " *friends being forward in their ſervices to me,)* that Sir Rowland declined " nominating me, he aſſigned good reaſons then, which were afterwards proved " to be good ones. He ſaid that although you declined offering yourſelf, in " 1774, you might think of it at ſome future period, that therefore it " would be prudent I ſhould get ſome other friends to nominate me; that we " might, and that we ought, to appear, to ſtand upon diſtant and ſeparate " intereſts; leſt from the ſame name, the county might be led to think *there* " *was too much connexion in our families, and conſequently not be ſo willing to* " *elect us both.*"

I have here ſubmitted to you, Gentlemen, authentic documents from which you are to form your own concluſion. They are plain and ſtubborn facts, which ſpeak for themſelves, and require no comment. They are like the ſimple outlines of a correct drawing, from which we may judge of a picture's merit, without being biaſſed by an injudicious diſtribution

diſtribution of light and ſhade, or miſled by falſe repreſentation in the colouring.

But there is another paſſage in the Baronet's letter before alluded to, which I cannnot refrain from introducing, as it will ſerve to delineate the real tenor of his diſpoſition in very ſtriking characters.

SECOND EXTRACT

FROM SIR R. HIIL's LETTER TO LORD BERWICK,

Dated January 20, 1786.

" I ſhould grieve indeed, if you ſhould ever think me indifferent *about* " *your welfare*. Truly my *dear* Lord Berwick, I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED " YOU, and will not now conceal from you, that when I have ſeen you in " great pain, and have been apprehenſive that you were in ſome danger, I have " had difficulty to prevent you from ſeeing me *ſhed a ſilent tear for you*, though " I truſt that tribute of my affection was not wholly confined to your periſhable " part. But enquiries after health, in general, paſs for things of courſe, and the " *infernal Cerberus of hypocriſy*, compliment, and *ſelf-intereſt*, has baniſhed *all* " *ſincerity* out of the land. But as I never wiſh to get rid of a ſingle grain of " *that ingredient* myſelf, &c. &c. &c.

" You know I deſpair of *your converſion*, but pray take good care of " your health, and believe me at *all times*, in *all places*, and upon *all occaſions*,

" My *dear* Lord Berwick,

" Your *affectionate Friend*, &c.

" RICHARD HILL."

We have read of *a Judas who betrayed his maſter with a kiſs*; we have heard of *a Joſeph Surface*,* *who never ſpoke without a moral in his mouth*; but can we in the hiſtory of mankind adduce a parallel to the preſent example. Recollect, Gentlemen, it is not many years ſince the original manuſcript from which I copied theſe extracts, iſſued from Sir Richard's pen. Recollect, Gentlemen, but ſeven years have paſſed away ſince the death of the worthy perſon to whom they were addreſſed; and then call to mind, the groundleſs attack upon the reputation of your departed favourite, which aſſerts† that "NOEL HILL WAS AN ENEMY TO THE JUST RIGHTS OF FREEMEN!"

In ſupport of this aſſertion, Sir Richard has thought proper to affix his name. Better, ſurely, had it been, to regard the old motto, "*De Mortuis, nil niſi bonum*;" or, if the blow muſt come, far wiſer would it have been to inflict it through the medium of his numerous agents, than to diſguſt us by caſting it againſt a man, whom we all have loved and lamented; whom even *he himſelf* profeſſes to have *truly loved*; and for whoſe pains he had *ſhed a ſilent tear!*

An impartial Public, in reviewing this tranſaction, ſo repugnant to common feeling, and ſo derogatory to the dignity of human nature, will form their own judgement concerning it. I will neither anticipate their ſentiments nor ſuggeſt

* School for Scandal, a Comedy, by R. B. Sheridan, Eſq.

† Page 24.

ſuggeſt any further opinion of my own. One general obſervation I will, however, take the liberty to introduce, becauſe it is applicable to mankind in general. It is a maxim which I laid down in early life, and ſucceeding years have ſince confirmed it by experience. "Thoſe who would be thought ſo infinitely ſuperior to the reſt of their fellow-creatures, are generally found, in reality, to be as much below, as they profeſs to be above them."

Sir Richard is offended at being reproached "with "entertaining the bold idea of monopolizing both Town "and County." It is beyond me to comprehend wherefore a man is offended at being reproached with entertaining an *idea* of that monopoly, which he enjoys in *reality*. It is a well known circumſtance, that many of thoſe who now ſupport Mr. J. Hill, have frequently expreſſed their diſlike of ſeeing one family repreſent both Town and County. And it was, therefore, very properly ſtated by Mr. William Hill, that his ambition never aſpired ſo high.

A very general and very popular Toaſt in circulation among us, will ſerve to verify this aſſertion, "*May the Hawkſtone Family never repreſent both Town and County!*" The unſocial ſpirit of the Baronet, is not likely to lead him where ſuch a convincing proof of our real ſentiments may ſtrike his ear.

The frequent ſcoffs at youth are inconſiſtent with Sir Richard's parliamentary conduct, after having ſupported a

young

young miniſter for ſo many years. Is it not, moreover, both impious and profane, if we are unable to depreciate the character of a young man in any other way, to make his Youth a ſubject of reproof?

As for the abilities which may be requiſite in the diſcharge of parliamentary duty, I ſee no reaſon why our young candidate ſhould be deemed inferior to his rival. We are ready to allow Mr. John Hill that portion of mental acquirement, which has calculated him to move with reſpect and approbation through the narrow ſphere of domeſtic life. But who ever heard of his abilities in the more extenſive field of public employment? Had I ſufficient authority to ſtate his own ſentiments in this reſpect; I am convinced he would candidly diſavow all claim to ſuch encomiums. He would fairly and ingenuouſly declare, that the education, and natural genius of Mr. William Hill, entitled him to bear the palm of ſuperiority.

" The *particular* ſervices he may have in ſtore for the Town of Shrewſbury," although they have afforded the Baronet a ſubject for ſarcaſm, will, I hope, not be an object of conſideration with the electors of that borough. Their views will be directed towards *general* not *particular* welfare. But we are not to wonder at expreſſions of ſo illiberal a tenor, from the quarter which produced them. Sir Richard has not been wanting in any precaution that may convince the electors of the extent of *his particular* ſervices. But we have the ſatisfaction to experience that a vaſt majority of that reſpectable body reject, with

with indignation and diſdain, the empty promiſes, and temporary donations, of intereſted liberality.

The progreſs of my undertaking brings me at laſt to that ſingular paragraph, which offers to our conſideration, a curioſity more ſingular than all the wonders of Katterfelto, or the miraculous atchievements of magic and enchantment.

We are told, that "if Mr. W. Hill had reſtrained his wiſhes within the bounds of civility and politeneſs," without uttering a ſeries of cabaliſtical expreſſions, or invoking ſupernatural agency, "A DOOR WOULD HAVE OPENED OF ITS OWN ACCORD, of which he muſt now force the lock!"

Gentlemen, I challenge the Proprietors of all the Reviews, Monthly, Critical, or Analytical, amidſt all the Tales, Novels, Romances, and Adventures, that come under their juriſdiction, to produce a door, more marvellous or more extraordinary. Neither Merlin, nor Mother Shipton, ever alarmed a gaping multitude with ſo ſingular piece of mechaniſm. The Cock-lane Ghoſt was a paltry device, compared with the portals of Hawkſtone; although it exerciſed the genius of Churchill. Haply the fertile brain of Peter Pindar, exhauſted by ſubjects of metropolitan occurrence, will repair to old Salop, for ſome new theme of ſatire in the manſions of the Baronet.

After this ſpecimen of our author's talents and ingenuity, we cannot but admire the haughty complexion of the paragraph immediately following.* "Who may have been

* Page 20.

" Mr. W. Hill's adviſers on this occaſion, I pretend not " to gueſs; but this is certain, that if he had conſulted " with men of *ſound ſenſe* and *experience*, his line of conduct " would have been very different from what it has been."

In an addreſs of December 3d, Mr. J. Hill affirms,* "Had " I in confidence received any intimation of a wiſh being " entertained for me to retire, I ſhould have thought it " my *indiſpenſable* duty to have conſulted you, &c. and had it " appeared to be your inclination, &c. I certainly would " have done it."

Now what more in the imagination of man could have been done, than was performed by Lord Berwick, and his brother Mr. William Hill. When it apeared to them that a ſeat in parliament, at any future vacancy, was not to be obtained without a total ſeparation of family intereſt and family harmony, both in the town of Shrewſbury and in its neighbourhood; and being at the ſame time influenced by a perſuaſion that *two* of the name of Hill, would never be allowed to repreſent the ſame borough; Lord Berwick wrote to Sir Richard and Mr. John Hill informing them of the *whole truth*, the *whole* of the circumſtances; and the *whole* of their *ſituation*.

In a ſhort time afterwards, Mr. W. Hill, with his brother Richard, went to Hawkſtone and Prees. Upon this occaſion, the former declared to Mr. J. Hill, he would gladly deſiſt from taking any further ſtep, if Mr. J. Hill would point out any means by which his ſucceſs might be rendered more probable, and the tranquillity of the borough more effectually ſecured. In addition to this circumſtance, Lord Berwick, actuated

* Page 33.

actuated by a ſincere deſire of preſerving amity, wrote to Sir Richard, upon his arrival in the country; requeſting permiſſion to meet him, at Hawkſtone, or Attingham. This polite propoſal the Baronet declined for himſelf; but replied, that Mr. John Hill would go to Attingham, whenever invited; and, upon being written to, mentioned a diſtant day for that purpoſe.

The meeting at length took place, and I am authoriſed to ſay Mr. J. Hill's conduct upon that occaſion, was not of that nature which might have been expected, either from a relation, or a gentleman. Inſtead of offering, or acceding to, any conciliatory meaſures, his behaviour was marked by rudeneſs and incivility.

The next morning, therefore, November 3d, when he appeared ſomewhat more calm, a friend endeavoured to expoſtulate with him; and told him, he would endeavour to perſuade Mr. W. Hill to relinquiſh his pretenſions, provided Mr. John Hill would offer him ſuch encouragement or ſupport, as might be conſiſtent with his future views. At the ſame time he declared he was perfectly convinced, that neither Lord Berwick, nor his brother, were deſirous, at this moment, that the latter ſhould come forward.

To this fair and candid propoſal Mr. J. Hill did not think proper to accede. On the contrary, neither aſſurance nor encouragement, of any kind, could be obtained from him. He continued to urge as an objection "that the ſtrength had been tried before the letters were written." In reply to which he was poſitively and frankly aſſured, that hitherto only two perſons

perſons had been conſulted, whoſe opinion and counſel, it was abſolutely neceſſary to procure.

Towards the concluſion of this conference, on the ſecond day of Mr. John Hill's viſit at Attingham, he propoſed (as he was then going to London) that no public advertiſement, or public canvaſs, ſhould take place by either party, without three days previous notice. As ſoon, however, as it appeared *convenient* to himſelf, and in a very ſhort time afterwards, Mr. John Hill broke up the truce, gave in his *three days notice*, and iſſued forth his addreſs.*

Here, at once, commenced that ſeries of diſtraction and diſorder, in which the Borough of Shrewſbury is involved. Conſider, Gentlemen, who has been the cauſe of ſo much miſchief; and "whether, in order to promote "Peace, you ought to encourage the diſturbers of it?" Before this time, parties of different opinions met cordially, and exchanged good offices. But, ſince the channel of licentious abuſe has been opened, anarchy and enmity have gone hand in hand together. Their pernicious influence has extended far and wide; and, when the buſineſs of his brother's canvaſs, firſt induced Sir Richard to *condeſcend* to enter Shrewſbury, he ſaw, and felt its baneful conſequences.

It was upon this occaſion, that meeting in the ſtreets with a friend of Mr. W. Hill's, he remarked upon the bitter and unpleaſant ſubjects that were brought in agitation. "You ſhould then remember," replied the Gentleman, "what party, with their ſignatures, appeared "*firſt*, and *laſt*, in the public papers; who iſſued *the Free Man*,

* Dated 3d December, 1795.

" *Free Man*, as the *firſt anonymous lampoon*, and who has " publiſhed *the only pamphlet!*"

If theſe miſchievous proceedings had never taken place, (and it was in the full power of Mr. J. Hill, to caſt all the odium, at leaſt of the example, upon his rival) perhaps the moſt ſerious, ſenſible, and moderate of each party, might have exerted their influence, as mediators, to reſtore " peace within our walls!"

In ſurveying the conduct of the leaders in this warfare, we can but admire the amiable behaviour of Mr. W. Hill. In the earlieſt period of its commencement, when virulence and ſlander had called him forth, he began with telling you,* that " defence, not recrimination, was his object." And in confirmation of this aſſertion, let me put it to the breaſt of every individual, whether he or his party, have directly or indirectly, been the authors of any attack whatever? " *Defence, not recrimination*," has been their conſtant purſuit. Have they not patiently endured, both in themſelves, and their friends, every opprobium that malice could inflict, every falſehood that iniquity could deviſe? When laſhed by perſonal and vulgar invective, when inſulted by malignant reflections upon the private anecdotes of domeſtic life, have they ever produced or patronized, any ſpecies of retort, although conſcious that among the number of their adverſaries, there does not exiſt one, who is not equally open to the ſame chaſtiſement?

Compelled to avert the influence of that virulent and reſtleſs humour, which " neither ſlumbers nor ſleeps," the writer of theſe pages is at length induced to vindicate his much

* Addreſs, December 4, 1795.

injured friends. The perſevering and petulant induſtry of Sir Richard Hill, in calumniating the ſpotleſs reputation of young men, hath urged him to the field of controverſy. Had the Baronet been contented to circulate only one edition of an inſidious and degrading publication, I had remained ſilent. But when a *ſecond*, a *third*, and a *ſupplement*, is intruded upon the public; and this, not only among the electors of Shrewſbury, but in every avenue and corner of the metropolis, common juſtice requires an anſwer.

The warmeſt of his partiſans, and the moſt diſpaſſionate of his opponents, equally coincide in reprobating a conduct ſo inconſiſtent with his character, his years, his ſituation; and ſo repugnant to the principles by which he profeſſes to have been guided throughout his life.

All I hope is, that bitter repentance for his paſt conduct, (in juſtice to the world at large, as well as to thoſe he has injured) will induce him to make ſuch an apology, as the nature of it requires.

Does the Baronet really believe what he has ſtated* as *very* poſſible, with regard to the reſignation of his brother? Or is it merely introduced as an additional link in the ſyſtem which he has fabricated, to connect the diſcordant materials of his pamphlet? Such an inſinuation but ill accords with the bitterneſs and rancour which the earlieſt intimation of Mr. W. Hill's intention excited in his boſom. Wherefore, at this late period, is it now brought forward? Why was it not advanced at an earlier ſeaſon, while amity and good will prevailed among us; and ere yet the combat had commenced? The plain fact is, neither

* Page 21.

neither Sir Richard nor his brother, ever entertained the ſmalleſt intention of making ſo juſt a ſacrifice to the peace of Shrewſbury, or the dictates of their conſciences. This he has rendered evident in his own aſſertions; when, forgetting, as uſual, what he had already profeſſed, he gives full ſcope to the bitterneſs of diſappointed ambition, by unguardedly exclaiming,* " *Is it not ſufficient for one of a family to be placed above me, and to be elevated to a ſeat in the Houſe of Peers, but his brother muſt alſo be introduced into the Houſe of Commons! ! !*"

What advantage or pleaſure can Sir Richard expect to obtain from his feeble endeavour to revive ancient animoſity, or long forgotten feuds, between different families?† What reference to the preſent conteſt can be derived from any former political diſſention between the Houſes of Attingham and Sundorn? It only ſerves to ſhew us, that every Gentleman in the neighbourhood, of independance and principle, have united in ſupport of juſtice againſt arbitrary power; in endeavouring to avert the aſſault of unnatural relations from the injured offspring of NOEL HILL; in openly avowing their deteſtation of a cauſe, which has *ingratitude* for its object, and *bribery* for its ſupport.

This conteſt certainly includes much more than a vacancy by either of the preſent members declining; for it is not merely whether I ſhall vote for Mr. W. Hill or Mr. John Hill, but (as the majority of burgeſſes are freeholders) it is, whether by voting for the latter, as well as for Sir Richard, I ſhall ſerve the Hawkſtone family *twice*, in preference to the Attingham family

* Note to page 1 of the Supplement. † Page 21.

family *once?* So the paragraph* ought to ſtand. In this manner it will be read by every candid and impartial obſerver. The encomium, in the ſequel, upon the children of Mr. John Hill, we admit in its utmoſt latitude. We are no ſtrangers to their merits; and will chearfully ſubſcribe to the warmeſt eulogium upon their characters. We regret the injury they will ſuſtain from the conteſt their father is engaged in; but is this a reaſon why we ſhould approve a tale of calumny, or reprobate the conduct of Mr. W. Hill, in offering himſelf a candidate for the borough of Shrewſbury?

Another paragraph† diſcovers ſuch a parade of fortification, bombardment, red hot balls, and hand grenadoes, one might imagine the Baronet had ſerved a campaign on the Continent, during the ſiege of Valenciennes; or had turned plagiariſt, and plundered the journals of one of his nephews. For my own part, I hope I ſhall not be reproached with apathy, if it excites in me neither admiration nor alarm; I have not enough of the "*rage militaire*" to be intereſted in the ſtyle; nor a ſufficient portion of timidity, to be terrified at its martial and menacing deportment.

Probably there is only one expreſſion in it which I really underſtand. I allude to the "indignity offered to you as free electors, *by the ſhells of promiſes.*" Surely the Baronet will not reproach Mr. W. Hill, with uſing ſuch a ſpecies of artillery, after the artful inſinuation‡ *that he and his brother will deal more and more with the Shrewſbury ſhopkeepers, as they feel their obligations to them.* What! have they never felt an obligation which might induce them to have done

* Page 22. † Ibid. ‡ Page 6 of the Supplement.

done ſo hitherto? Do they, as yet, owe nothing to the inhabitants of Shrewſbury? or, are we to regard this inſulting offer, as the coaxing language of an old nurſe to her ſqualling brats, "*Peace, children! if you behave well, you ſhall have ſugar plumbs, bye and bye!*"

As to all his ſuſpicions upon the ſubject of a *coalition*, they originated in his own breaſt, and there they will remain. They deſerve, and ſhall obtain, the ſame regard which was ſhewn to him, in the ſenate, when he compared the Coalition in that aſſembly, to the *monſtrous craws*; and no member deemed his obſervations worth anſwering.

I cannot be perſuaded, but a happy compromiſe might honourably have been effected, without "knocking (according to the elegant language* of the Baronet) your preſent old member on the head, and depriving him of his parliamentary life, in order to make room for his hopeful young *ward*."

For what purpoſe has this term *ward* been made uſe of by the Baronet, and upon what principle can we admit the propriety of introducing a word, which directly declares that his brother was Guardian to Mr. W. Hill?

We cannot but ſuppoſe, among all his eccentricities, that our author underſtands at leaſt the monoſyllables he uſes; conſequently, the introduction of that word was both *wilful* and *premeditated*. In vain are we told by Reverend Divines, who "forſake their ſpiritual for temporal concerns, and officiouſly interpoſe themſelves betwixt Sir Richard and defamation,"†

* Page 23.

† This paſſage is taken from a very gentleman-like expoſtulatory epiſtle to Sir R. Hill, which made its appearance ſome time ago, ſigned "A Looker-on."

"that *all he means* is what he *has not expreſſed.*" The word ſpeaks for itſelf, and no ſophiſtry will explain away its meaning.* A *ſubterfuge*, it is true, might have licenſed its appearance, and protected its author from chaſtiſement. Mr. De Courcy might have hinted to Sir Richard, that by ſtating it among the *Corrigenda*, as an error of the preſs, it would have created full as much miſchief, without being ſo open to cenſure. A *ſingle monoſyllable* might alſo have paſſed in this way as a *probable miſtake*; whereas a *whole ſentence*, can hardly admit of any ſuch favourable conſtruction.

As the introduction of this word has given riſe to various miſrepreſentations on the ſubject of *guardianſhip*; I muſt again aſſert, that Mr. J. Hill, had no *right*, *power*, or *controul* whatever over the preſent Attingham Family; and I muſt once more repeat, that "Lady Berwick was SOLE GUARDIAN over *all* her children."

For what purpoſe, therefore, was the inſinuation made, and *deliberately* repeated, with regard to Mr. John Hill's *hopeful young ward?* To what end was *a falſehood* ſo *palpable* directed, unleſs for the ſiniſter conſequences which have attended it? Are you not of opinion, Gentlemen, that the *ſolemn apoſtrophe*,† in aſſeveration of *its veracity*, might as well have been omitted?

Such calumnies are not eaſily refuted, when once they have taken poſſeſſion of the public mind. "Unfortunately, (as the author whom I cited once before obſerves ‡) Detraction and malice

* It will not be ſuperfluous to inſert here Johnſon's definition of this word.
WARD, "One in the hands of a guardian."—*Drummond.*—*Otway.*
——— "The ſtate of a child under a guardian."—*Bacon.*
——— "Guardianſhip; right over orphans."—*Spenſer.*

‡ Vide Advertiſement to "Hard Meaſure." ‡ Looker-on.

malice never want a numerous, or a partial audience." Where then ſhall we find terms of ſufficient ſeverity to reprobate that malign depravity, by whoſe ſedulous machinations they were produced and circulated? In what light ſhall we conſider a writer whoſe pages are blackened with theſe inſinuations? Can we patiently behold him enjoying the proſpect of their miſchievous tendency, and telling us his *conſcience* obliges him to ſet brotherly affection apart* for theſe purpoſes; and that, as he has *loved* his victim from a child, he† ſtill *muſt love him?*

OH SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!

We will add a few remarks upon the ſequel of this important paragraph, and then take our leave of a page, which, perhaps the Baronet, by this time, wiſhes to immerge in the deepeſt waters of Lethe.

Sir Richard next proceeds to repeat ſome of the numerous calamities, which he ſo frequently predicts to the inhabitants of Shrewſbury, if they refuſe to obey his mandate for electing his brother. Could any one have ſuppoſed that the mere circumſtance of ſeeing Mr. W. Hill returned to Parliament inſtead of his couſin John, would have given riſe to the following animated picture? ‡

"Then let Salopia mingle her tears with the ſtream "that ſurrounds her walls. Her ſons have loſt their "liberties, and ſhe herſelf is reduced to a ſtate below the "abject condition of Old Sarum."

How pathetical! how poetical! how energetical!

There

* Page 23. † Page 31. ‡ Page 23.

There is little doubt, both from the ſpecimen before us, and our knowledge of the Baronet's character, but that the apprehenſion of his brother's loſing his ſeat, will induce him to write feelingly upon that topic; eſpecially after the declaration which rumour circulates, "*that he would ſpend every ſhilling in his pocket to inſure his brother's ſucceſs.*" This laſt circumſtance alone implies, that he believed you were to be *bought* and *ſold*; and having already expended a ſum which might have portioned ſome of his nephews and nieces; it is natural to ſuppoſe, that during a ſtate of doubt and anxiety, meeting with ſuch a check to his ambitious career, he would exert every ſinew, and ſtrain every nerve, towards the accompliſhment of his purpoſe.

But, alas! unfortunately for him, that pen, (though by no means "*unfledged** in diſputation,") is never brandiſhed but to diſcover inconſiſtency. When employed in favour of himſelf, or his family, we ſee it aſſuming all the dictatorial powers of ariſtocratic ſufficiency. When called to action by the redundant ebullitions of ſpleen, or diſappointed pride, it flows to gratify the votaries of democracy. For this latter purpoſe, his brother concludes an addreſs† with the

* It is not neceſſary to remind the public of all the ſarcaſm, which this unaſſuming, and I will add, elegant expreſſion, in Mr. William Hill's Advertiſement, excited among his opponents. Before they preſume to wield the rod of criticiſm, it would be both expedient and prudent in them, to beſtow a little application to ſuch authors as may qualify them for ſo dangerous an undertaking. One would naturally imagine that a work in ſuch eſtimation, and ſo eaſily obtained, as "Johnſon's Biography," (from which this phraſe was borrowed) muſt have fallen even within the narrow ſphere of *their* peruſal; and yet we find them falling into the blunder which diſtinguiſhed a curious production by one of their *Lampooners*, who criticiſed certain paſſages from Pope, cited by *Fidelis*.

† Dated December 17, 1795.

the identical expreſſions, not only uſed by the moſt flaming *patriots* in the Senate, and patrons of the *levelling ſyſtem*, but alſo in high requeſt with the moſt vehement ſupporters of univerſal anarchy. Unleſs *his* brother is returned to Parliament, you are told "you have loſt your Liberties," and moreover are menaced* with being "led, both burgeſſes and freemen, linked together in chains," by a combined and imperious influence.

A diſpaſſionate reader would indiſputably pronounce the writer of ſuch rhapſodies poſſeſſed with ſudden viſitations of inſanity. Does he conceive the Electors of Shrewſbury will be more enſlaved by their new Candidate, than by their old one? If any ſuch inſinuation applies at all, it ſhould be directed againſt him who is emptying a purſe, (never opened before among us) for what purpoſe I will not pretend to ſay. Is it with a view of *monopolizing both Town and County*, in his own family?

Are the inhabitants of Shrewſbury ſo reſtricted in their elective privileges, that Mr. John Hill alone muſt be their repreſentative? Yes, you are poſitively told, that if any other perſon has the audacity to exert his birthright, and offer a competition with your preſent Member, you are "*reduced below the abject condition of Old Sarum.*"

That Spirit of Liberty, which ſeems to actuate Sir Richard in his *occaſional* rhapſodies, brings to my memory a paſſage from one of the moſt ingenious writers† this century has produced. As it is particularly applicable to the point in queſtion, I ſhall conclude my obſervations upon the twenty third page, by laying it before my readers:

* Page 1. † Soame Jenyns, Diſq. 7.

" It is an old and a juſt obſervation, that the *loudeſt* " *advocates for liberty*, have always been the *greateſt tyrants* " whenever *they have got power into their hands*; and this " muſt neceſſarily be; becauſe, a love of liberty is an " impatience of controul, and when this impatience of " controul is united with power, *reſiſtance is an infringement* " *of their liberty, who poſſeſs it*, and is treated by them " with ſeverity, in proportion to their impatience of " controul. This ſhews that *an extraordinary zeal for liberty* " is nothing more than *an extraordinary fondneſs for power*; " that is, a power to controul the actions of others, " uncontrouled ourſelves."

The next page* brings us to the laſt paragraph in the " REAL STATEMENT OF FACTS," except what he reſerved for a concluding apoſtrophe to our new Candidate.

I do not find any thing in this paragraph worth our attention; except the repetition of aſſurances that Mr. J. Hill might have been won by gentle means; and as I flatter myſelf, I have ſufficiently proved the contrary, it were ſuperfluous to take up any more of your attention on that head.

We now come to the concluding addreſs;† and find the Baronet expreſſing his bitter indignation againſt Mr. W. Hill's advertiſement; which he is pleaſed to ſtyle " a more " complete farrago of bombaſt, folly, nonſenſe, miſrepre- " ſentation, and contradiction, than ever appeared before the

* Page 24. † Ibid.

" the public eye in ſo ſhort a compaſs of paper." I will venture to ſay, Gentlemen, you have long ago anticipated any animadverſion I may be inclined to paſs upon this ungentlemanlike exploſion of ill-humour and criticiſm.—When a man's temper ſo far gets the better of his prudence, that he cannot, even in the moments of meditation, prevent his pen from betraying his emotions, it were better if he never preſumed to write. For my own part, if I had never ſeen the advertiſement in queſtion, I ſhould have formed no mean opinion of it from the effect it has produced. That it made " the galled jade wince," is evident enough; but it is not ſo clear for what purpoſe Sir Richard imprudently expoſed his ſore and irritated feelings.

Without pretending to *the exalted talents* of the Baronet, or claiming the ſmalleſt portion of that *keen* and *lively penetration*, which enables him to wield the rod of criticiſm, I have, nevertheleſs, ſufficient temerity to differ very materially upon the ſubject of the advertiſement in queſtion. Like him, however, in one reſpect, I am perfectly ignorant of the author; and if it proceeded not from the pen of Mr. W. Hill, I think it " little worth my while to conjecture" from whence it originated.

Nevertheleſs, ſo far from deeming it worthy the cenſure it has obtained, in my humble opinion, it is written in the ſtyle of a ſcholar, with the politeneſs of a Gentleman; two qualifications, which the Baronet, bigotted as he is to *blunder* and *inconſiſtency*, never evinced, amidſt all his multifarious productions.

The

The latter part of the ſame paragraph, in which theſe violent ſtrictures upon Mr. W. Hill's advertiſement are introduced, offers to our notice perhaps the moſt offenſive and unwarrantable paſſage in the whole work. You will readily perceive I allude to that ſcandalous reflection upon the character of NOEL HILL, which has, more than once, demanded my indignation and reproof. I do not intend to weary your patience, or my own, by dwelling upon ſo diſguſting a topic. A few obſervations more, and I have done with it for ever.

"That late truly right honourable character,* the late "judicious Lord Berwick, † for whoſe pains Sir Richard "had often ſhed a ſilent tear,‡ (which he found much "difficulty to conceal) for whoſe periſhable, as well as "immortal part, he expreſſed ſo much anxiety; his dear "Lord Berwick, whom he always loved," § is no ſooner withdrawn from the ſtage of life, than this *tender and affectionate friend*, proclaims him, "AN ENEMY TO THE JUST RIGHTS OF FREEMEN!!!"

The author of this defamation well knew it was a ſpecies of calumny likely to prevail; becauſe, abſtractedly conſidered, it bears the reſemblance of truth. He tells you ‖ the late Lord Berwick "was an Enemy to the juſt Rights "of Freemen, and that the very *name* of Freemen Burgeſſes "was a term unheard of in his Father's time." Now let any

* Page 3. † Page 4.

‡ Vide Extract of Sir R. Hill's Letter to the late Lord Berwick, page 33 of this work. § Ibid.

‖ Page 24 of "Hard Meaſure."

any man look into the "*laws of elections*," or even "*the companion to the Royal Calendar*," and he need not be told, that the Conſtitutions of different Boroughs have been as much ſubject to alteration as our bodily conſtitutions. Amongſt theſe changes and chances, the Borough of Shrewſbury has ſhared the like revolutions. For many ages a conſtitution had been eſtabliſhed, which was in force a conſiderable time after the preſent Lord Berwick's grandfather had retired from the Repreſentation of the Borough. And it was extremely natural for his ſon, as "the very name of Freemen Burgeſſes was not known in his father's time," and as he had availed himſelf of the beſt legal information he could obtain, to doubt the practicability of overturning the long accuſtomed conſtitution. Theſe doubts, it is admitted, he entertained in common with many others.—But that "he was an enemy to the juſt rights of freemen," is A DIRECT FALSEHOOD; and Sir Richard ought to ſtate, if he would ſpeak the truth, that it is only here brought forward as a mere catch-word, and common-place expreſſion, to anſwer an electioneering purpoſe. He well knows, that his own family joined in the ſame cauſe, with Sir C. Leighton; and if it is not generally remembered, it is only becauſe they were ſuch ſtrangers, at that time, in the borough, that their names were too inſignificant to deſerve record.

A ſhort paragraph concludes this olio of defamation and criticiſm; in which the Baronet expreſſes a wiſh that our new candidate may meet with "a better advocate or a "better cauſe." As for *advocates*, we leave them to thoſe whoſe conduct requires *Vindication*; and with regard to our cauſe, whether attacked by argument, or oppreſſed by power,

it will equally withſtand the ſubtlety of the one, and riſe ſuperior to the perſecution of the other. Indeed it may be well compared to the houſe of the wiſe architect, " who ſaw the rains deſcend; " and the floods come; and the winds blow, and beat upon that " houſe; yet it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock."

After what we have heard ſo repeatedly proved, with regard to the opening of public houſes; when there does not exiſt among us a ſingle perſon, (except the immediate partiſans of the Baronet) who is not thoroughly convinced that the channel of diſcord and diſſipation was thrown open by our opponents; it is too glaring an inſult upon our reaſon, to hear Sir Richard* perſevere in taxing our new Candidate, as the author of the confuſion, animoſity, and licentiouſneſs, which has been introduced among the lower orders of men. Supported, as he has been, by almoſt every gentleman of independance and property in the neighbourhood; and attended upon his canvaſs, more reſpectably than any member, I will venture to ſay, ever was attended upon a ſimilar occaſion; was it not natural for him to ſuppoſe that Mr. J. Hill would have withdrawn his pretenſions to the borough, when he beheld the wiſhes of a vaſt majority ſo unequivocally evinced?

But, exclaims the Baronet, it is a deteſtable coalition to undermine the liberties of Shrewſbury! It is ariſtocratic influence plotting the downfall of freedom! It is an army of deſpots attempting " to take the town by ſtorm!" It is a project to barter away your rights now, and in future; to violate your ancient privileges; and to lead " both burgeſſes and freemen, linked together" in one common chain of ignominious ſlavery!

What

* Page 25.

What coalition, what influence, and what deſpots are theſe, whom the Baronet belabours ſo vehemently? Are they not his own conſtituents? Does not the ſame influence preſent him to his own ſeat in the Britiſh Senate, and is he not aſhamed of his audacity, in thus daring to inſult their honour? What a ſtriking proof is here again afforded of his marvellous *inconſiſtency*. In the firſt page of his pamphlet, he deprecates that very influence, from which, in the fifth, he tells you he derives his own ſupport.—Abuſing it as ariſtocratical, when exerted for his couſin, and boaſting of it as honourable, when called forth in favour of himſelf.

Such are the principles, and ſuch the foundation, upon which the Baronet erects the ſuperſtructure of his abuſe. Is there a ſingle charge throughout his elaborate pamphlet, which will ſtand the teſt of ſcrutiny, or ſurvive the ſober and even forgiving examination, of juſtice and reaſon? Admitting, for a moment, that to cultivate the leading intereſt of the county, was an improper and an unwarrantable meaſure; has Sir Richard himſelf afforded an example, which may juſtify the cenſure he ſo liberally beſtows upon the conduct of his couſin? Was not a ſimilar mode of proceeding conſpicuous upon his brother's ſecond canvaſs, when the whole country was ranſacked for nabobs, revenue officers, and Whitchurch freeholders, to ſwell the train of a diſappointed commoner? * A truce, therefore

* The motley crew aſſembled upon this occaſion, reminded the ſpectators of Falſtaff's march to Coventry, with his ragged regiment of raw recruits. Indeed it ſeemed as if they had been ſummoned together by an invocation ſimilar to that of Hecate in Macbeth.

" Black ſpirits and white,
" Blue ſpirits and grey;
" Mingle, mingle, mingle,
" You that mingle may!"

therefore, with his reflections upon ariſtocratic influence, and that wretched bombaſt, by which he vainly endeavours to inſinuate, that a plot has been formed to ſubvert the liberties of your borough. Whenever, in future, he may think proper to renew his accuſations, keep this circumſtance in contemplation; and, with regard to thoſe futile interrogations,* reſpecting the "diſſipation and licentiouſneſs among the lower orders of men," call to mind this plain and ſtubborn fact, which has been ſo often ſtated, but which all their ſophiſtry has never been able to refute, or to annihilate, that, MR. JOHN HILL FIRST MADE THE CONTEST PUBLIC; FIRST INTRODUCED, AND SANCTIONED BY HIS EXAMPLE, THAT SYSTEM OF INTEMPERANCE AND PRODIGALITY, WHICH HAS BEEN PRODUCTIVE OF SO MUCH ANIMOSITY, SO MUCH IMMORALITY, AND SO MUCH DISCORD!

Although frequently requeſted to check this career of vice, by worthy and reſpectable perſons of his own party, who had previouſly obtained the concurrence of his opponents, he perſiſted in the execution of that abominable practice,† from which all the evil originated. Thus the good order and peace of ſociety was interrupted and deſtroyed. To his imprudence we owe the calamities we have encountered; and at his "door all the confuſion and diſcord lies, in which the borough of Shrewſbury is involved."‡

The next article I ſhall bring forward to your notice, is that diſguſting interrogation,§ which immediately follows, reſpecting the "marks of friendſhip, eſteem, and love," which Mr. W. Hill is accuſed of having ill-requited.

From

* Page 25. † The opening houſes of public entertainment.
‡ Vide advertiſement to "Hard Meaſure." § Page. 25.

From the parade and oſtentation in which this queſtion is made, we are to conclude, that not only our new candidate, but every branch of his family, have been loaded with ſignal proofs of favour and benignity. And yet the aggregate of this unbounded generoſity never exceeded the common marks of perſonal civility. But is that kindneſs worthy a requital which the donor afterwards proclaims and trumpets forth, with the loud voice of oſtentation? Surely, ſo far from meriting acknowledgement, it excites our diſguſt; and will, I have no doubt, be regarded by the public, with that ineffable contempt, which they once before beſtowed upon its author, when having diſtributed a ſmall ſum to a charitable inſtitution, he publiſhed the hiſtory of his bounty in the public newſpapers.

The ſucceeding paragraph,* is made the vehicle of the Baronet's opinion upon the ſubject of ingratitude. He "truſts that not a ſingle drop or particle of it will be "*found* in the veins of a true Hill." And really I am ſo far of his ſentiments, that if we can judge from the torrent, which has already iſſued, we may hope it has emptied itſelf altogether. Therefore, unleſs the original ſtock exceeded all comprehenſion, we may reaſonably conclude, "not a ſingle drop, or particle" is left behind.

And now, Gentlemen, being a little weary with purſuing him through his long ſeries of miſrepreſentation and calumny, I can but feel happy, whenever he has worded his ſentiments in ſuch a manner, as to ſpare me the trouble of making a reply. You may have heard, Gentlemen, of

* Page 25.

a certain divine, who poſſeſſed the ingenious talent of arranging his compoſition in ſuch curious order, that his texts would ſuit any ſermon, and his ſermons be applicable to any text. In juſtice to the Baronet, I muſt confeſs, that his writings often betray a ſimilar degree of harmony. An inſtance of this occurs very fortunately in the ſequel of the page* upon which I am now writing. The whole of the next four paragraphs, with the alteration of names only, will ſerve my purpoſe full as well as his. I ſhall therefore be guilty of a little plagiariſm, and in anſwer to them, retort *verbatim*, upon his brother, the very words he has addreſſed to Mr. W. Hill.

" Let us for a moment ſuppoſe you arrived at the height " of your wiſhes in this buſineſs, and ſeated as member " for Shrewſbury, inſtead of your relation Mr. William Hill, " could you find yourſelf eaſy, ſatisfied, and even happy " in your triumph? A triumph over all the generous " ſentiments and endearing ties which connect ſociety and " adorn human nature; a triumph over all the liberal, " grateful feelings which we owe to benefactors, friends, " and relations; a triumph over the virtue and moral " principles of many, as well as over the freedom and " independence of Shrewſbury itſelf, which henceforward muſt " in caſe of your ſucceſs, hide its once honourable head, " and ſneak under the mean and ſervile appellation of *Sir* " *Richard's Borough*. †

" No

* Page 25.

† We all know the borough of Shrewſbury is free, independent, and ſubject to no individual controul. And yet we find Mr. John Hill, in a letter to the late Lord Berwick, dated September, 1784, uſing the following words,

"No doubt, Sir, we ſhall be favoured with many "more promiſes, beſides thoſe contained in your preſent "addreſs, of your independent conduct in parliament, and "of your ſteady attachment to the place you wiſh to "repreſent; but by what rule can we give credit to theſe "promiſes? Can that man lay claim to independence "himſelf, who would wreſt the independence of others "out of their hands? Or can any member be attached "to his conſtituents, who himſelf is a ſtranger to every "attachment of affinity, conſanguinity, gratitude, and "affection?

"Do not, Sir, rate your own intereſt, conſequence, "or popularity, by the number of votes you may have, "but conſider how many would have been glad to have "given them to your injured relation, but who from "dependence, or what may be called aukwardneſs of "ſituation, could not avoid voting for you.

"Who will praiſe you for the part you have taken? "In my conſcience, I believe ſcarcely a ſingle individual. "Who will blame you? Not only all, who go againſt "you, but many, very many of thoſe, who think they "MUST go with you."

The two following pages,* are replete with ſo much *canting* and *ranting*, ſuch rhapſody, bombaſt, and nonſenſe, that

words. "*I am* WITH YOUR PERMISSION, *likely to become member for Salop.*" Now judge for yourſelves, who it is that has inſulted the dignity and freedom of your borough? This letter is ſtill preſerved; and will be produced by the preſent Peer, whenever called upon for that purpoſe.

* Pages 26, 27.

that no man in his ſober ſenſes will venture to anſwer them. Indeed, one might conclude, that no perſon, in poſſeſſion of his reaſon, could have written them. It would be difficult to compriſe ſuch a ſyſtem of unconnected folly in ſo ſhort a compaſs. We therefore paſs over this motley aſſemblage of "*Conſpiracies and cabals*; *moles under ground*; "*Guy Faux*, *with the powder plot*, *and his lighted match*; "*pretty tales*, *lately invented and propagated*; *ſubterraneous* "*buſineſs*, &c. &c." and, as we underſtand Sir Richard is much engaged at Hawkſtone, in preparing and perfecting the *machinery* of *a puppet ſhew*, we recommend the character of Guy Faux, as an excellent ſubſtitute for the ghoſt of Lord Kilmorey, which from the paleneſs of his viſage, and the pomp of his deportment, he is admirably calculated to perform himſelf.

After ſuch extraneous matter, and a note replete with vulgariſm,* Sir Richard aſks if the late Lord Berwick "might not with equal, nay with much more cauſe, have "requeſted a reſignation from the late Sir Charlton Leighton?" Alas! his Lordſhip never entertained a ſuſpicion, during the repreſentation of his very worthy friend, that any ſon of *his* would be excluded from an equal chance with other neighbouring gentlemen, of offering his ſervices to the electors of Shrewſbury. Had that *truly* worthy Baronet been continued your repreſentative, our new candidate would have remained contented in his preſent ſituation; and would have waited until ſome future event gave him an opportunity of changing it. But ſituated as his family have ever been with regard to Sir Richard and his brother, and

* Page 28.

and knowing the obligations which the two latter have received from the houſe of Attingham, was it not the general and received opinion that Mr. John Hill would reſign his pretenſions to the borough? And if the propriety of ſuch a ſacrifice to gratitude and reaſon did not ſit heavy upon Sir Richard's conſcience, why does he repeatedly aſſure us, that he wanted only *a little more coaxing*, and that the mere violation of *etiquette* provoked him to oppoſe the meaſure.*

A letter from Lord Berwick to the Baronet has given riſe to much animadverſion and ſarcaſm. From the taunting manner in which it is mentioned,† Sir Richard would inſinuate, that his Lordſhip had written ſomething he was aſhamed to produce before the public. I ſhould not have ſubmitted this letter to your peruſal, if the Baronet had not expreſſed his wiſh to ſee it brought forward in terms that render ſuch a publication indiſpenſable. The letter itſelf is of no great conſequence to our preſent purpoſe; but, as Sir Richard ſeems to challenge its appearance, we have inſerted it without the ſmalleſt heſitation.

LETTER FROM LORD BERWICK,

To SIR RICHARD HILL, Bart. dated London, October 12, 1795.

Dear Sir Richard,

I find upon the report of a diſſolution of Parliament, in Shropſhire, Mr. Probert called upon Mr. R. Pemberton, to

 enquire

* We find this mentioned at pages 20, 21, 24, 27, and 33.

† Page 29.

enquire if my brother had any thoughts of the borough of Salop; as Mr. Mytton had received preſſing invitations from many of his friends, and as he was not without hopes of his pretenſions being real, he did intend offering himſelf at ſome future occaſion. This has been confirmed by a ſubſequent converſation between Mr. Mytton and myſelf.

This ſubject being thus brought upon the carpet, I think fit to commit to paper, as the moſt eligible mode between connected friends, what are my ſentiments upon the occaſion.

You muſt well know my father had eſtabliſhed an intereſt; and, if I am not now flattered, many of my friends think it ought to be maintained. Theſe, I am ready to confeſs, are my own wiſhes; but, on account of the connection with your family, I had contented myſelf with looking at a diſtance for theſe indulgencies.

In looking forward to contingent events, I had conceived it poſſible, from a number of circumſtances, ſome general declaration might ſometime happen, that my brother might ſtep forward to offer ſimilar pretenſions. Mr. Mytton having already declared himſelf waiting the like ſituation, it naturally occurs to me, to contrive, how my brother can ſteer clear of appearing to oppoſe one of his connections in the firſt inſtance; how to avoid *creating any uproar or diſaffection in the borough*, in the ſecond, and how to maintain a footing at all, in the third; My hope and wiſh is, that in all his ſchemes for providing for the laſt, he may equally avoid both the former extremes; but if, in ſecuring the ſecond, he is neceſſitated to coaleſce with Mr. Mytton, I hope it may be ſo honourably and properly conducted, as, in no way, to interfere with the mutual good underſtanding, which has ſo long ſubſiſted between the two families.

I hope to be in Shropſhire in the courſe of a few days, and remain,

Dear Sir Richard,

Your moſt ſincere friend, and humble ſervant,

BERWICK.

You will conſider, Gentlemen, that the foregoing letter paſſed in private from a young man to his relation. It was written in confidence, and without the moſt diſtant idea of ever laying it before the public. This circumſtance will at once apologize, if any apology be neceſſary, for inaccuracy of expreſſion, or careleſſneſs of compoſition. — From the ſarcaſm that has been thrown out againſt it, you are at liberty to judge, what uſe would have been made of perſevering in meaſures of "intimation and con- "fidence," if ſuch a line of conduct had been imprudently adopted. It is well for Sir Richard, if his private letters will ſtand the teſt of public ſcrutiny with ſo little diſad- vantage to their author, as this from Lord Berwick to him. It is allowed by thoſe who have peruſed it, to reflect conſiderable honour upon its writer, for the candid and honourable ſentiments it contains; and therefore it might have been deemed oſtentation on our ſide, had we produced it without being challenged by the inſinuations in "Hard Meaſure."

I have mentioned before, that Mr. J. Hill, during the interview at Attingham, objected to ſeveral paſſages in this letter. He threw it on the table with rudeneſs and indignation, demanding an explanation of the word *coaleſce*. "*Am I*," ſaid he, "*to conſider ſuch an expreſſion* "*as a menace?*" He was immediately informed, in anſwer, as I have before ſtated, that the term he reprobated, alluded to no compromiſe whatever. The parents of Lord Berwick and Mr. Mytton had lived in political variance with each other; and his Lordſhip was extremely deſirous of *coaleſcing* with Mr. Mytton, in his future plans, as a friend and brother officer, ſooner than perpetuate by diſcord and

and oppoſition, thoſe contentions which had exiſted between their parents.

We at length arrive at that daring attack upon the character of Mr. Probert.* For my own part, I profeſs to have no acquaintance with this Gentleman; but hearing the conduct of Sir Richard univerſally reprobated, for the ſcandalous aſperſions he has beſtowed upon a man, who merited neither his cenſure nor malevolence, I uſed every precaution in obtaining the real particulars with regard to that Gentleman's conduct.

I flatter myſelf the Public will not be diſpleaſed in ſeeing the whole affair impartially detailed, and ſubſtantiated upon the beſt authority.

Mr. Mytton having received the ſtrongeſt ſolicitations from many reſpectable Gentlemen, to offer himſelf a candidate for the borough of Shrewſbury, at the next general election, ſome converſations took place upon the ſubject, between him and ſome other friends.

Upon this occaſion Mr. Probert gave it as his decided opinion, that the tranquility of the town ought not to be diſturbed, if the preſent members offered themſelves; and he preſſed his advice ſo warmly, that he was abſolutely ſuſpected of harbouring a ſecret predilection for the intereſt of the Hawkſtone family. It was even inſinuated that he ſuffered his attachment to that family to prevail over his anxiety for the welfare and intereſts of his friend Mr. Mytton.

Mr. Probert

* Page 29.

Mr. Probert was at Mr. Coupland's office laſt June, upon private buſineſs of Mr. Mytton's. A prevailing rumour with regard to the ſpeedy diſſolution of parliament, was at that time in circulation; and Mr. Pemberton coming in, the political affairs of Shrewſbury became the topic of their converſation.

Mr. Probert obſerved, that although Mr. Mytton conceived a ſeat in parliament to be one of the moſt honourable acquiſitions he could obtain, (connected as he was with the town of Shrewſbury, and conſidering the flattering manner in which he had been requeſted to come forward) yet he had no intention or inclination to offer himſelf, if the preſent members wiſhed to retain their ſeats; neither would he now, or at any other time, interfere with that occupied by Mr. J. Hill. But when a vacancy in the other afforded him an opportunity, he meant to ſubmit his pretenſions to the Electors of Shrewſbury. An event, which he ſincerely wiſhed might be far diſtant; both on account of his eſteem and regard for the preſent worthy poſſeſſor, and his deſire to preſerve the peace of the town. And moreover becauſe he had no doubt it would ever be congenial to the wiſhes of the Electors *not to have the two Seats in one Family.*

We are told, in the title page to "Hard Meaſure," that the publication of it was "occaſioned by the very peculiar and "unwarrantable manner in which Mr. W. Hill introduced "the name of Sir Richard into his late printed Addreſſes." At the ſame time, whilſt he is complaining ſo loudly at the introduction of his own name, without any degree of ceremony or apology, he inſerts the names of Mr. Corbet,

Mr. E. Burton, Sir Charlton Leighton, Mr. Mytton, and Mr. Probert; as if he alone was privileged to print whatever he may think proper.

What pity it is, that a man who *profeſſes* to make Scripture ſo much his ſtudy, has not learned, during the courſe of a long life, to be guided by its precepts! If the Baronet will give himſelf the trouble to examine that chapter of St. Matthew, which I have cited in a title page of this work, he will find ſome very ſeaſonable admonitions. "And why beholdeſt thou the Mote that "is in thy Brother's Eye, but conſidereſt not the Beam "that is in thine own Eye? Or how wilt thou ſay to thy "Brother, Let me pull out the Mote out of thine Eye, "and behold, a Beam is in thine own Eye? THOU "HYPOCRITE, firſt caſt out the Beam out of thine own Eye; "and then ſhalt thou ſee clearly to caſt out the Mote out "of thy Brother's Eye."

As the Baronet has thought proper in one inſtance, to ſtate the particulars of a Meeting,* at which he was not preſent, he might alſo have done ſo in another. He has cautiouſly been ſilent upon the ſubject of the interview at Attingham, becauſe Mr. E. Burton was a witneſs upon that occaſion; but arrogates to himſelf a vaſt deal of conſequence, with regard to the tranſactions at Prees and Hawkſtone; where there was no impartial Mediator to obſerve what paſſed, and where two old and *very wary* heads, were cautiouſly oppoſed to the unſuſpecting openneſs of youth.

Whatever

* The Meeting at Prees.

Whatever might have been Sir Richard's opinion upon the preſent controverſy, it would have been full as well expreſſed, if he had ſtated it to the public in that cool and diſpaſſionate manner, which is ever emblematical of truth and ſincerity. His ſituation and time of life required this tribute from his pen. The taſk I have undertaken would then have been rendered more agreeable to myſelf, and far more pleaſant to my readers. Situated as I now am, it is frequently neceſſary to retort, not only in his own ſtyle, but, occaſionally, even in his own words. So juſt was the obſervation of a celebrated nobleman, "If you will argue with a "Hottentot, it muſt be in his own language."

Would not his purpoſe have been effected, as much to his own gratification, and more to the ſatisfaction of the public, if that unmanly and ungenerous aſſertion* againſt the Houſe of Attingham had never been inſerted? It would, at leaſt, have demanded more attention, if an inſinuation ſo abject, and ſo much beneath the notice of thoſe againſt whom it was addreſſed, had not been "*wantonly*, *ungratefully*, and "*illiberally*" attributed to "*a diſcerning and reſpectable* "*Gentleman*," who is ſaid to have been always "*a ſincere* "*friend*" of the perſons he attempted to vilify.

Inſerted as it now is, the Houſe of Attingham, and their friends, are placed in the aukward ſituation of *ſuſpecting* the authority upon which it is delivered. In my own opinion, no ſuch aſſertion was ever made by any Gentleman. I am inclined to think the Baronet is only playing off a little *fineſſe*; and feeling inclined to depreciate the character of his relations by every means within his power,

* Page 31.

power, endeavours to get rid of the odium attached to *defamation*, by attributing his calumny to another perſon.

And now, Gentlemen, I hope I have completely refuted every charge brought forward by Sir Richard Hill againſt our new Candidate, and his amiable Brother, in the elaborate and abſurd pamphlet he has circulated among you. The Supplement, which appeared afterwards, remains to be conſidered. Previous, however, to the introduction of any remarks upon that ſubject, I ſhall proceed to paſs a few ſtrictures on the various letters which have appeared with the ſignature of Mr. John Hill.

Whatever may have been our preſent animoſities, I have never hitherto affirmed, or imagined, ought that might tend to the prejudice of the ſuppoſed author of theſe letters. I have conſidered him as a worthy and reſpectable member of ſociety, influenced by his brother to accede to meaſures, which the dictates of his own heart condemned and diſapproved. I am, therefore, reduced to the neceſſity of believing that he had no more to do with thoſe letters than to give his conſent for their publication, though indeed, he has not afforded the electors a very ſtriking proof of his good ſenſe in affixing his name thereto. The oſtentatious parade of words, and the mock dignity, which ſelf-complacent ignorance aſſumes, ſufficiently point out the *learned* and *reſpectable* author of theſe precious morſels of criticiſm and urbanity.

It is therefore from motives of compaſſion I am induced to repreſent to Mr. J. Hill the ridiculous light in

in which they have placed him; as well as the great degree of *inconſiſtency* they make him appear guilty of.

Novelty, in ſome ſhape or other, influences men of all deſcriptions, high or low, rich or poor, learned or unlearned. And the novelty of appearing as a ſcholar, (at leaſt in his own idea,) though at a late period of life, induced Mr. J. Hill to liſten to the "ampullæ et ſeſquipedalia verba," which, if thundered out with ſufficient emphaſis, *muſt* gain the admiration of the Wem and Whitchurch freeholders, upon the principle of that infallible maxim,

Eſt enim ignotum omne pro magnifico habendum.

For my own part, I can but imagine he was full as much alarmed, when he heard the declamation read to which his name appears, as the *old woman*, to whom the ſchool boys repeated the Greek alphabet. We read, indeed, that Cato, in his old age, condeſcended to learn Greek, and therefore cannot blame Mr. John Hill for his ſudden attachment to letters; but it is rather hazardous to commence the career with criticiſm. Indeed, it is a perfect ὑστερον προτερον, which being interpreted, for the ſake of the freeholders before mentioned, ſignifies "*putting the cart before the horſe.*" The reaſons for my uſing ſo familiar a proverb are, I doubt not, obvious.

Mr. J. Hill is pleaſed to anticipate his couſin's progreſs in eloquence, and with the moſt *pointed ſarcaſm* forms a happy preſage of his future greatneſs. I have ſufficient acquaintance with Mr. W. Hill, to be convinced, that if any circumſtance affords him more ſatisfaction than another, it is the "*laudari a laudato viro*," and after the NUMEROUS

SPECIMENS his opponent has given of his *oratorical powers* in St. Stephen's chapel, who ſhall diſpute his pretenſions to all the encomium, which the moſt brilliant eloquence ever commanded or obtained. One who has himſelf diſtinguiſhed his parliamentary career by ſuch unexampled exertions of talents, muſt doubtleſs be an excellent judge of genius in others. Mr. W. Hill receives therefore his compliments and criticiſms with *due* reſpect and gratitude.

I coincide entirely with Mr. J. Hill, in that indiſputable axiom which his letters contain,* "*men are not* "*intuitively wiſe*;" but I muſt add another aphoriſm, to the number of his *truiſms*, equally applicable and equally infallible; "*men do not learn wiſdom throughout the courſe of* "*their lives.*" I alſo agree with him,† or rather with the common place book from whence he took his idea, that, "*the human intellect acquires growth and vigor by years, ſtudy,* "*and experience*;" but muſt now aſk a queſtion in my turn. What is the term of years, what the courſe of ſtudy, what the length of experience, neceſſary for its perfection? I conceive he will find that the human intellect *decays* with years alſo; that it is ſometimes overpowered by ſtudy, and ſometimes even *untaught by experience*; and I believe he is well aware (being, by this time, *an expert metaphyſician*) that the intellectual faculties of men, much younger than Mr. W. Hill, are often ſuperior to thoſe of others, who have lived, ſtudied, and laboured to acquire experience for threeſcore years, to no purpoſe. There are individuals, who, during one third of that period, have been taught to act conſiſtently with the character of a gentleman, and the principles

* Vid. Mr. J. Hill's letter, at page 44 of "Hard Meaſure."
† Ibid.

ciples of moral rectitude. They have learned to anſwer facts inſtead of cavilling at expreſſions. And ſome there are, who, though advanced beyond their grand climacteric, have never learned to prefer temperate reaſon to virulent abuſe, or cool diſcuſſion to perſonal invective. It is well obſerved by an elegant writer, that "a man's temper "often riſes in proportion to the weakneſs of his cauſe." I cannot, therefore, contemplate the ſtyle of Mr. John Hill's letters, without peculiar ſatisfaction.

I am not diſpoſed to wonder at any thing the Baronet may think proper to *ſay* or *do*, after the ſpecimens we have already received both of his *aſſertions* and his *actions*. But I am really amazed that Mr. John Hill ſhould have conſented to ſubjoin his name to any accuſation, or ſarcaſm, which makes a man's youth the ſubject of reproach. It is a ſpecies of accuſation perfectly new in itſelf, and as diſguſting, as it is unwarrantable. Sir Richard introduces it upon every occaſion to fill up a page, or end a ſentence, when he has nothing better to advance. We deſpiſed it, as coming from him; and for this reaſon I hardly noticed it in a former part of my work; nor ſhould I have brought this ſubject again into conſideration, if his brother had not been *perſuaded* to coincide in ſuch futile imputation.

I fear the Baronet's parliamentary experience has not been extended to a ſufficient period, for him to have witneſſed the ſublime oratory of an immortal Chatham; or he would have been taught by the thunder of his eloquence to avoid ſuch a ſpecies of accuſation. Mr. W. Hill may reply to him in thoſe memorable words, which

diſtinguiſhed

diſtinguiſhed his pointed ſpeech to the preſent Lord Orford.

" The atrocious crime of being a young man, which the " honourable gentleman has with ſuch ſpirit and decency " charged upon me, I ſhall neither attempt to palliate " nor deny, but content myſelf with wiſhing that I may " be one of thoſe, whoſe follies may ceaſe with their " youth, and not of that number who are ignorant in ſpite " of experience."

" Whether youth can be imputed to any man as a " reproach, I will not aſſume the province of determining; " but ſurely age may become juſtly contemptible, if the " opportunities which it brings have paſſed away without " improvement, and vice appears to prevail when the " paſſions have ſubſided. *The wretch* that after having " ſeen the conſequences of *a thouſand errors*, continues ſtill " to *blunder*, and whoſe age has only added *obſtinacy* to " *ſtupidity*, is ſurely the object of either *abhorrence* or *con-* " *tempt*, and deſerves not that *his grey head ſhould ſecure him* " *from inſults*."

I ſhall now take my leave of this epiſtolary Farrago, in the full truſt and confidence that the worthy electors of Shrewſbury, are too well convinced of their author's ignorance to pay a moment's ſerious attention to ſo much folly. Such rhapſodies never merit a reply, and as for the ſolitary fact which ſeems to glimmer through a ſeries of deſert pages, reſpecting the promiſe given to Mr. W. Hill's father, I hope the public will be diſpoſed to pay attention

attention rather to what he ſhall PROVE, than to what he ſhall ASSERT.

The progreſs of my work has at length brought me to that curious little offspring of Sir Richard's *literary Hotbed*, which made its appearance after the ſecond edition of "Hard Meaſure," and which he terms,

THE SUPPLEMENT.

As it is merely a repetition of what we have already anſwered, I ſhould not have intruded upon your attention by taking notice of it, if I did not flatter myſelf that I ſhall be able to uſe it as a medium, through which I may turn his own weapons upon himſelf; and at the ſame time afford you ſome ſmall ſhare of amuſement.

After having written, or compiled, a pamphlet of forty and nine pages; after having publiſhed a ſecond edition of this pamphlet, which profeſſes to anſwer Mr. W. Hill's advertiſement; is it poſſible that any man endued with the common faculties of ſight and obſervation, ſhould be unacquainted with every circumſtance in thoſe advertiſements? I will ſuppoſe a perſon poſſeſſed of the greateſt credulity Sir Richard may require; I will put this queſtion to him, and ſure I am, that he will anſwer in the negative. What concluſion then are we to derive from the firſt paragraph of his Supplement? Either that he never read the advertiſements he undertook to comment upon, or he has attempted a moſt egregious impoſition.

But this paragraph includes ſomething perhaps more ſingular than this extraordinary libel upon common ſenſe. His pen having run away with his prudence, in the firſt inſtance, proceeds, at full ſpeed, to inſinuate that Sir W. Pulteney *is a Stranger to the Electors of Shrewſbury.*

" Surely, ſaid I, this muſt be a miſtake, and the " young Gentleman *does not mean Mr. John Hill*, but SIR " WILLIAM PULTENEY."

He *unguardedly* allows, therefore, that ſuch an expreſſion is applicable to Sir William Pulteney, although he does not chuſe to have it uſed reſpecting his Brother. How often muſt I repeat my admonitions to him to learn caution before he ventures to *dabble* in the preſs? Once more let us beg of him to lay aſide his " *unfledged*" pen, leſt ſome ill-natured critic ſhould write thoſe lines from Pope, in the margin of his works:

Some are bewilder'd in the maze of ſchools,
And ſome turn authors, *nature meant for* FOOLS.

" Now if Sir Richard Hill can help me to a milder " expreſſion, and equally true, I will not call this treatment " of Sir William Pulteney *flippant arrogance*; but inſtead " of dwelling on the appellation of ſtranger, let us ſee " how far it is applicable to one of the Hawkſtone " family, rather than to Sir W. Pulteney."*

Mr.

* This paſſage is taken verbatim (merely changing the name) from the firſt page of Sir Richard's *Supplement*. As it ſuits my purpoſe full as well as his, he will excuſe me for inſerting it.

Mr. John Hill is ſo far a ſtranger, that he would hardly have been known in Shrewſbury, but for his frequent viſits and reſidence at Tern. When he firſt ſolicited the votes of the electors, could either he or his brother have commanded half a dozen voices, without the Attingham intereſt? Mr. Corbett, of Longnor, who then had thoughts of oppoſing him, could certainly have made more than ten times that number. Who then muſt have ſucceeded, had not Lord Berwick's influence decided the conteſt? Mr. John Hill was ſo ſenſible of this at that time, (although now denied) that he thus expreſſes himſelf in a letter, which can now be produced, and which I have once before cited. "I am at length, *with your Lordſhip's* "*permiſſion*, likely to become member for Salop."

I introduced this paſſage in a former part of my work, becauſe it then ſhewed the ſort of delicacy with which Mr. John Hill treated the electors of Shrewſbury in his private correſpondence. I now produce it again, in order to contradict, by his own words, any aſſertion which may tend to prove that Mr. John Hill is any other than a STRANGER in this country; or that he came into parliament upon any other recommendation, intereſt, or aſſiſtance, except that of the Attingham family. In ſupport of this indiſputable fact, I may now aſk, Who knows any thing of his brothers? Are not they *Strangers* in Shrewſbury? and would he have ever pretended to prove himſelf otherwiſe, if it had not been for the kindneſs of his benefactor and patron, the late Lord Berwick? *

Mr.

* It is curious to obſerve (vide note to page 1 of the Supplement) how the Baronet is ſtung with envy and diſappointed pride, whenever the circumſtance

Mr. W. Hill is greatly indebted to the ſame ſource as the Baronet; but not to the Baronet himſelf, which is what he ſeems to inſinuate. Sir Richard may, with equal propriety, be ſaid to owe much to the Attingham family, on this account; upon every other, he *is* indebted to them. Mr. Richard Hill benefitted both families. Being a younger brother, it was natural for him to provide for the younger children; but he did more, he provided for the elder branch alſo; ſo that, in this reſpect, the Baronet has robbed the Attingham family of what would otherwiſe have fallen to their ſhare.

The anceſtors of Mr. John Hill were alſo the anceſtors of his opponent. If the Harwoods were ſo abject as the Baronet inſinuates, how came it to paſs that Mr. R. Hill not only countenanced the union of the two families, but bequeathed them a large portion of property?

Nothing can be more unintereſting to you, Gentlemen, than a topic of this nature. I conceive it neceſſary to apologize

circumſtance of the late Peer's elevation occurs to him. Ever ſince NOEL HILL was elevated to a ſeat in the Houſe of Lords, theſe paſſions have been foſtering in his heart, till at length, able to contain them no longer, he exclaims, "*Is it not ſufficient for one of a family to be "elevated above me,*" &c. &c. When his Majeſty was pleaſed to confer that honour upon the late Lord Berwick, a dagger was planted in Sir Richard's breaſt. But what argument can be derived againſt Mr. William Hill's becoming a member of Parliament, from the circumſtance of his father's having been created a Peer? Is Mr. W. Hill to be reproached with the kindneſs of his Majeſty towards his father?

It is alſo worth while to remark, how *ſore* Sir Richard is, reſpecting the "*bold idea of monopolizing town and county.*"

apologize for having introduced it here. You will perceive, however, that it could not be avoided without violating the promiſe I made in the commencement of this work, to anſwer all the charges brought forward by Sir Richard Hill, (of whatever nature they may happen to be) aud to purſue him *line by line* through every part of his inſiduous miſrepreſentation.

You will obſerve, Gentlemen, a vaſt deal is ſaid about Sir Rowland Hill, who was Lord Mayor of London in the time of King Edward the Sixth. Can any abſurdity equal the introduction of a circumſtance ſo foreign to the Borough of Shrewſbury, or the motive which he declares induced him to write, that " of ſhewing at whoſe door all " the confuſion and diſcord lies in which the Borough is " involved." Peace to the manes of this venerable Goth! Wherefore, in the name of reaſon, is a Lord Mayor of London, who flouriſhed centuries ago, oppoſed, as a ſubject of argument, againſt Mr. W. Hill, in the days of George the Third? Is it of any importance to the burgeſſes of Shrewſbury to be informed what bridges he built; or what benefits he conferred? Or, allowing, that among the electors there may be found a *few antiquarians*, who are inclined to beſtow their votes on the deſcendants of this *doughty knight*, Mr. W. Hill has full as much claim to them as his opponent.* Therefore, if any benefit accrues to the deſcendants of this *munificent anceſtor*, ſince no perſon has

a greater

* The Attingham Family are as much deſcended from Sir Rowland Hill, Knight, ſon of Thomas Hill of Hodnet, builder of Atcham and Tern Bridges, as the Hawkſtone family; that is to ſay, neither of them are. Dying unmarried, he left his fortune between four ſiſters, of one of whom, Mr. Kynaſton of Hardwick, the preſent Member for Salop, is Repreſentative.

a greater reſpect for his progenitors than Mr. W. Hill, at leaſt allow him to ſhare the advantage.

We are all ready to allow that the late Sir Rowland was an early and a liberal ſubſcriber to the Salop Infirmary, in conjunction with almoſt every perſon of property in the county. But how his particular ſubſcription or benefactions to that inſtitution, are implicated in the preſent conteſt, I am unable to determine. The late Rev Dr. Adams, Mr. Roger Kynaſton, Mr. Tayleur, and Mr. Orton, were the "nurſing fathers;" and though Sir Rowland might ſubſcribe liberally, did not Mr. T. Hill, grandfather of your new candidate, alſo contribute upon that occaſion?

The ſequel of this page* contains one of the moſt inſolent paragraphs, that has appeared throughout his work; although the accuſation it ſerves to introduce is more nugatory than many others I have refuted. He has the audacity to aſſert that, "had it not been for the con-"fident boaſting of the young candidate, and the deſire "he uniformly ſhews of depreciating Mr. John Hill and "his connexions, theſe things would never have been "mentioned."

Gracious God!—Pardon me, Gentlemen, if on ſuch a topic my language ſavours of vehemence; are not theſe aſſertions ſufficient to ſubdue the apathy of the moſt rigid ſtoiciſm! Remember his long ſeries of detraction; call to mind the numerous inſinuations which he has directed againſt Mr. W. Hill; againſt his youth, his family, his character, his amiable brother, and his lamented father; and then conſider this *paltry*

* Supplement, Page 5.

paltry apology for all his calumny. Now, Gentlemen, I put it to the breaſt of every individual among you, whether Mr. W. Hill, in one inſtance, ever attempted to depreciate his couſin or any of his connections. Among other inſtances of *kindneſs* which the Baronet profeſſes to have ſhewn him, we may rejoice, that his talent for defamation was not included. It might be affirmed of the *Emperor of Morocco* that he is a ſtranger in Shrewſbury, if he attempted to interfere in the political intereſts of the borough; but would that tend to depreciate his ſable Majeſty, or any of his ſwarthy connections?

With regard to "the *craft* and *deſign** of ſetting "forth Mr. John Hill as a ſtranger," our new Candidate not only wiſhes the people of Shrewſbury to think it is againſt their intereſt to elect one, but is of opinion, with every impartial and conſiderate man, that it would materially affect their welfare to prefer a ſtranger to one who is their neighbour.

The magnificent edifice at Attingham,† a thorn in the ſide of our envious Baronet, is next made the ſubject of his animadverſion. The furniture and ornaments of this hoſpitable manſion were procured entirely from Shrewſbury; excepting ſuch articles as can only be obtained in the Metropolis. This circumſtance many a grateful heart will teſtify, and it is well known to all thoſe whom I now addreſs; therefore his impertinent interrogation upon this ſubject is anſwered in a few words. With regard to the advantage the town is likely to derive from it hereafter, its final completion will afford ſufficient employment to every

* Ibid. Page 5. † Ibid. Page 6.

every artificer in Shrewſbury; and the undertaking has only been poſtponed by the advice of the architect.

Reſpecting the payment of bills,* Sir Richard is of opinion, that "no family diſcharges their debts more punctually" than his own. This is a ſtrange and very bold aſſertion; as it ſeems to inſinuate that the reſt of the neighbouring gentlemen are leſs punctual in this reſpect than himſelf. I am not competent to determine the degree of regularity that all families obſerve in their domeſtic affairs, but for the Houſe of Attingham I can ſpeak decidedly; and have a perfect right to declare, that their character in this reſpect will not ſuffer by any compariſon with their opponents.

Having ſummed up a ſeries of miſrepreſentations reſpecting the difference between the two families, in conferring benefits upon the town of Shrewſbury, he concludes the page† with that *mean* and *coaxing* promiſe, which I have before alluded to, "*that he and his brother will* "*deal more and more with your ſhopkeepers, as they feel their* "*obligations to them.*" That is to ſay, unleſs you confer an *obligation* upon them, this will not be the caſe. It is a *mercenary promiſe*, and only *mercenary meaſures* will induce him to perform it. I am not ſufficiently an adept in legal proceedings, to pronounce whether or not ſuch a promiſe conſtitutes *an act of bribery*. What it may be in law I know not; but, morally conſidered, I think it requires no great ſhare of diſcernment to point out its tendency.

Such

* Supplement, p. 6. † Ibid.

Such is the nature of thoſe promiſes by which he inſults at once your underſtandings as Men, and your privileges as Freemen. " Surely," ſays he, " theſe, conſiderations " will operate on the minds of all thinking men, to convince " them on which ſide even their own intereſt muſt incline " them to vote."*

" The eyes of many begin to be opened, and to ſee " the truth of theſe obſervations. They declare they " cannot in conſcience abide by a cauſe, which has " ingratitude for its foundation, ambition for its object, " and threats for its ſupport. Let me add, that had ſeveral " circumſtances been known when Mr. J. Hill firſt planned " the deſign of keeping out his friend and relation, I am " perſuaded that ſome reſpectable characters who have

" appeared

* In a note to theſe laſt words, an inſinuation is thrown out, which has ſince been induſtriouſly propagated, that Mr. Mytton had granted leaſes of his property near Shrewſbury, in which a clauſe is inſerted by the advice of Mr. Probert, to anſwer political purpoſes. It may not be improper therefore to refute this, by ſtating the fact which is ſuppoſed to have given riſe to ſuch a report.

A leaſe of Shelton Farm was, in the year 1742, granted by the grandfather of Mr. Mytton to Mr. Samuel Urwick, father of the preſent tenant; in which a clauſe is introduced that determines and makes void the leaſe, if the tenant ſhall refuſe to oblige the landlord, by giving his vote to ſuch Candidates for repreſenting the Town of Shrewſbury and County of Salop, as he (the landlord) ſhall require.—Mr. Probert was ſo far from attempting to take any advantage of this clauſe, that he never even mentioned it, on any occaſion whatever, to Mr. Urwick.

There can be little doubt, that when Sir Richard was adviſed to inſert a note ſo replete with malevolence, he was informed at the ſame time that the leaſe muſt have been granted many years before Mr. Probert became acquainted with the Halſton Family.

The wiſh he expreſſes, with ſo much feeling, " that a law might paſs " to make void ſuch leaſes as compel the tenant to vote according to the

" will

" appeared on his ſide, would have been decidedly " againſt him, and what they may yet do I pretend not " to ſay."*

We now come to the viſion. Anticipating all the horrors of Mr. W. Hill's ſucceſs, the Baronet dreams † that he ſees him " elected, returned, and chaired, amidſt " the ringing of bells and the ſhouts of multitudes." A very intereſting viſion, truly! and very well deſcribed; may reality verify the flights of his imagination!

" Methinks I ſee you elected, returned and chaired, " amidſt the ringing of bells and the ſhouts of an hired " multitude; but I hear, through all this noiſe and " tumult, the ſighs and groans, &c. I ſee all around me " dejected countenances and ſhaking heads, and I hear, &c."

" Theſe ſights methinks I ſee, this language methinks " I hear, but there is yet a ſight and a language which " I can neither ſee nor hear, I mean the PICTURE, &c."

The

" will of the landlord," does him wonderful credit, both as a Member of the Britiſh Senate, and as a man of ſenſe. As a Legiſlator, he *ought* to have known, that ſuch a clauſe, whether inſerted by way of covenant, or condition, is in itſelf not only unconſtitutional, but void; and the leaſe is not in any way affected by the inſertion of it. As a man of common underſtanding, he could not but ſee, that ſuch a law would be adding to the injury, (if this clauſe can be called an injury) by making void a deed executed for the advantage of the tenant.

* The whole of this paragraph is taken verbatim from page 7 of Sir Richard's Supplement. I conceive that when he makes uſe of language more applicable to his party than to our's, he has in ſome meaſure robbed us; and therefore it is proper to turn his own weapons upon himſelf, and apply it as it ought to be.

† Supplement, page 7.

The uſe of this "*poetical ſecond ſight*," the Baronet has borrowed from Mr. Sheridan's farce of "the Critic," which I ſhall clearly prove by a ſhort extract from that celebrated Satire; but, in order to avoid crowding my text with extraneous matter, I have ſubjoined it in a note below.*

The

* Critic, Act II. Scene 2.

Puff, Sneer, Tilburina, Governor, Dangle, &c.

TILBURINA.—"Then is the Criſis of my fate at hand!
"I ſee the fleets approach——I ſee——

PUFF.—Now pray, gentlemen, mind. This is one of the moſt uſeful figures we tragedy writers have, by which a hero, or heroine, in conſideration of their being often obliged *to over-look things that are on the ſtage*, is allowed to *hear* and *ſee* a number of things *that are not*.

SNEER.—"Yes—a kind of *poetical ſecond ſight!*

PUFF.—"Yes—now then, madam.

TILBURINA.— "I ſee their decks
"Are cleared!—I ſee the ſignal made!
"The line is form'd!—a cable's length aſunder!
"I ſee the frigates ſtationed in the rear;
"And now I hear the thunder of the guns!
"I hear the victors ſhouts—I alſo hear
"The vanquiſh'd groan!—and now 'tis ſmoke—
"and now
"I ſee the looſe ſails ſhiver in the wind!
"I ſee——I ſee——what ſoon you'll ſee—

GOVERNOR.—"Hold, daughter! peace! this love hath turn'd thy brain:
"The Spaniſh fleet thou *canſt* not ſee—becauſe
"——————It is not yet in ſight!

DANGLE.—"Egad tho', the Governor ſeems to make no allowance for this *poetical figure* you talk of."

PUFF.—No! a plain *matter of fact man*—that's *his character*."

The next circumſtance we meet with in this amuſing Olio of Dreams and Inconſiſtencies, is of that nature which generally characterizes the ſons of Ireland. It is known among Engliſhmen by the title of *a Bull*; and as it often compels even Gravity to ſmile, I am happy to meet with it in the lucubrations of the Baronet, as well as the pages of Joe Miller. The only queſtion I would aſk, before I introduce it, is, whether Sir Richard has lately imported it by one of the out-voters from Dublin; or merely ſtole it from Mr. De Courcy's Common Place Book?

A picture is deſcribed* which he ſays he "can neither "ſee nor hear," (hearing a picture is ſomething perfectly new) and over this picture (which he can neither ſee nor hear) *he draws "a black veil!"*

Gentlemen, when aſſembled round a chearful fire, to beguile an hour among your children "in legendary lore," let me beg of you to amuſe them with the marvellous tales of a Hawkſtone magician, who had "*doors that opened of their own accord*," and, ſtill more wonderful, poſſeſſed the talent of drawing *a black veil over "a picture" which he could "neither ſee nor hear!"*

When the Baronet ſtates what he would *write* upon the flag that may be borne before our new Candidate, I render him the moſt implicit belief. I deem him capable of *writing any thing*. — We are alſo infinitely obliged to him in recommending an inſcription† for that purpoſe, but

* Supplement, page 8. † Ibid, page 8.

but it comes too late. We have already fixed upon our motto, which ſhall be, according to his direction, in capitals, as follows:

THE TRIUMPH OF GRATITUDE AND NATURAL INTEREST OVER THE ENEMIES OF NOEL HILL!

All that he has ſaid reſpecting anonymous ſcribblers, is more applicable to his own party than to their opponents. I have before expreſſed my ſentiments with regard to the origin of all the ſcurrility and perſonal invective that has appeared on either ſide. It is well known from whom the firſt lampoon originated; and as for "*the poor five guinea poet*" Sir Richard mentions, allowing, for the ſake of argument, that Mr. W. Hill gave that ſum for the compoſition of at leaſt a harmleſs ſong, ſtill the money came out of his own pocket, he did not apply to Mr. Roſe *to pay his panegyriſt.*

But how will he reconcile to himſelf and to the world, all that he has ſaid, or cauſed to be ſaid, reſpecting anonymous publications? Is there, in Great Britain, an individual who has written more works of this deſcription than Sir Richard Hill? From the earlieſt period of his reſidence at the Univerſity, until the preſent hour, has not his career been marked by diſputation, ſtrife, and controverſy? Recollect, Gentlemen, his treatment of the moſt amiable man* that ever lived within the precincts

* Rev. W. Adams, D. D. formerly Miniſter of St. Chad's, Shrewſbury, and late Maſter of Pembroke College, Oxford.

of your town. Remember how he vilified his character, and aſperſed the ſpotleſs tablet of his reputation. Was not this "*a deed without a name?*" a deed, which no perſon will call to mind without ſentiments of abhorrence and diſguſt. Examine the long catalogue of his multifarious productions! A world of controverſy, and a ſea of ſtrife; an ocean of froth and venom, torrents of abuſe, and premeditated ſlander. Were theſe ſanctioned by his name, and openly avowed, or did they intrude anonymouſly * upon the attention of the public? *Out upon it!* is this a man to reprobate anonymous publications? Is it poſſible this can be the perſon, who affirmed in one of his own productions, † that "NAMES ARE OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE WHERE TRUTH IS IN QUESTION?"

Such

* The following paſſages from Dr. Nowell's anſwer to "Pietas Oxonienſis," will ſerve to convince the public, how little reaſon Sir Richard has to revile at *anonymous* writers.

Page 138. — "Let me aſk you ſeriouſly, whether to throw out *perſonal abuſe*, to rip up private characters, (page 6, 19, of Piet. Oxon.) to revive old ſtories, many of them FALSE, all of them *miſrepreſented*, of ſuppoſed abuſes, &c. thirty or forty years ago; to uſe *bitter* and *opprobrious language*, let me aſk you, whether this is conſiſtent with that charity and meekneſs which is the character of Chriſt's diſciples."

Page 150. — "I was in hopes you would have favoured the world with your *name*, ſubſcribed to the ſecond edition of your performance; but I find you ſtill chuſe to lie concealed; delighting to ſhoot your arrows in the dark, even bitter words, by which, though your *name be concealed*, you fully diſcover what manner of ſpirit you are of. I was likewiſe led by your advertiſement to expect that you would have acknowledged ſome errors, which you muſt be conſcious you had been guilty of in your firſt edition; but I perceive you ſtill perſiſt in them, having added nothing but *low abuſe* to notorious falſehood.'

† Vide page 54, of a Letter to Dr. Adams, by the author of "*Pietas Oxonienſis.*"

Such were his ſentiments once, when motives eaſily imagined, induced him to hide his face from the frowns of an indignant public. But now, having thrown off his maſk, to vilify and traduce his young relations, he copiouſly pours forth the fouleſt imputations againſt all thoſe, who, being converts to his early opinions, conſider a name of no importance in diſputes that are to be ſettled by facts alone.

This inordinate inconſiſtency, has more than once been the ſubject of reproof and ridicule in the courſe of the foregoing work. I have endeavoured alſo to expoſe falſehood and to confound diſſimulation, whenever they appeared, and in whatever ſhape they endeavoured to conceal themſelves. In ſo doing, I have proceeded with circumſpection and candour; ever anxious, that thoſe whom I now addreſs, may partake, in concert with me, thoſe feelings, and that conviction, which urged me to the undertaking, and reſulted from its accompliſhment.

I entertain no hope of making an impreſſion upon the mind of him who has provoked me to the taſk. Through a long ſeries of years he has blundered on, blind to conviction, and obſtinate in error; not that I give any credit to what he has uttered with regard to his own indifference.* An abler pen than mine† has anticipated all I had to ſay with regard to the "petulant apprehenſions and puerile alarms," he imprudently betrayed reſpecting

* Vide the three laſt paragraphs in the Supplement to the fourth edition of "Hard Meaſure."

† Letter to Sir Richard Hill, by "a Friend to Truth."

reſpecting the appearance of this work. He has aſſerted, that he will *not* read it; but does he vainly imagine we have already forgotten a ſimilar declaration* in the Poſtſcript to his "Pietas Salopienſis?" This is a ſtale but ſorry ſubterfuge, and is already regarded with univerſal contempt, and public deriſion. It is of no conſequence to me, or to the public, whether or not theſe pages are ſubject to his peruſal. They will be read by thoſe who ſeek for truth, and having ſought it, will ſurely find it. Innumerable *vindicators*, hirelings, and paraſites, will deluge me with invective. You will hear my name traduced and vilified, by every artifice of fraud and falſehood. The minions of defamation have already teſtified their activity and folly. Plunging their weapons in darkneſs and error, they have wounded a number of perſons as the author of their tortures, whoſe very faces I never ſaw, and to whoſe characters I am an utter ſtranger. One, in particular, Sir Richard has ſelected as the object of his calumny: a man, to whom I am entirely unknown, with whom I have no connection, who never beheld a page of this work until its publication, nor ever ſupplied me with a ſingle circumſtance contained throughout the whole of it.

As it will happen that in repeated attempts to ſtrike a mark, the moſt awkward may be right at laſt; and as I have

* "I am come to a reſolution not to read, much leſs to anſwer any of your future epiſtles." — Poſtſcript to "Pietas Salopienſis." 1770.

So in "The Critic," Act I. Scene 1.

DANGLE. — "Well, Sir Fretful, I wiſh you may be able to get rid as eaſily of the newſpaper criticiſms as you do of ours."

SIR FRETFUL. — "The NEWSPAPERS! — Sir, they are the moſt villainous — licentious — abominable — infernal — Not that I ever *read* them — No — I make it a rule never to look into a newſpaper."

I have taken no precaution againſt ſuch an event, it is both poſſible and probable, that the real author of theſe pages will become the topic of their foul invective. And be it ſo! Let thoſe deplore diſcovery, who have reaſons far different from mine for concealment. I wiſhed not, at my time of life, to be ſeen forward in the field of controverſy, and therefore ventured to the battle in diſguiſe. If among the number of thoſe who are ſkirmiſhing around me, ripe for ſlaughter, any hoſtile hand ſhould raiſe my beaver, I am ready to confront him. In the mean time, the ſilence of an individual, whoſe artifices I have detected, and whoſe reſentment I deſpiſe, will ſerve as a tacit confeſſion of imputed guilt; and ſpare me the unpleaſant taſk of being again ſummoned to a ſcene of diſputation.

Gentlemen, the Supplement concludes with an apoſtrophe to you. An apoſtrophe, artfully introduced, as an appeal to your paſſions, and a medium by which empty promiſes are conveyed to your notice.

" Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes." OVID.

I hope you will treat ſuch inſulting overtures with all the contempt they ſo highly merit. I am conſcious it is altogether unneceſſary to anticipate, or to repeat, what you may have ſaid, or be diſpoſed to pronounce, upon a ſubject ſo repugnant to your feelings.

In the Appendix to the fourth edition of " HARD MEASURE," he has ſtated, that " it was not his wiſh to have appeared in print." Surely it is more than common audacity which thus induces a man to falſify his own

aſſertions, and to make ſuch a declaration, after having told us, in a preface to the ſame work, that "*if he were to loſe the friendſhip of thouſands by ſo doing*," he would produce his pamphlet before the public. To which he adds, "SO HELP ME GOD."

The moment approaches in which it will be neceſſary for me to reſign my pen. Previous to my concluſion, permit me to recapitulate the principal charges which have been made againſt your new Candidate by his venerable Couſin. As far as I am able to determine, after a careful peruſal of his pamphlet, and from a ſtrict attention to all the arguments of its partiſans, the aggregate of theſe charges amounts to four. However, what is deficient in point of number, is amply ſupplied in IMPORTANCE; for, when I ſtate the nature of them, where is the man that would not tremble to be ſo accuſed?

In the firſt place, we are told that Mr. W. Hill is the author of all the confuſion and diſcord in which the borough of Shrewſbury is involved!

In the ſecond, that one of his anceſtors exerciſed a commercial occupation in the town of Shrewſbury!

In the third, that he was Mr. J. Hill's ward, and therefore ungrateful to his guardian!

In the fourth, that he is a young man!

Amongſt all the annals of modern eloquence, or all the records of remoter periods, where can we find a ſyſtem of accuſation

accuſation ſo important, ſo ſevere, or ſo unanſwerable? Believe me, Gentlemen, overcome with apprehenſion at the difficulty of the undertaking, I have hardly courage to add a few words in refutation.

And firſt, with regard to the confuſion and diſcord in which the Borough of Shrewſbury is involved. To ſhew at whoſe door the origin of this evil lies, induced the Baronet, as he himſelf affirms, to publiſh his *real* Statement of *Facts*, although hardly a page of it conforms with this declaration; being filled with Genealogy, Criticiſm, Invective, Tales, *Allegory*, Viſions, Apoſtrophes, Promiſes, Puns, *Bulls*, Family Anecdotes, and a long *et cætera* of materials totally irrelevant to the object he profeſſes to have in view. Nevertheleſs, as ſuch a charge is inſinuted at the commencement of his work, and as I conſider it a very ſerious imputation, I am happy in having had an opportunity to prove that Mr. W. Hill is perfectly innocent of any ſuch violation of the public peace. I have ſhewn that the channel of licentiouſneſs and diſſipation was thrown open by Mr. John Hill, contrary to the wiſhes of his Couſin, and in direct oppoſition to every entreaty of his party.

The grievous charge of his being deſcended from a Tradeſman, illiberal and abſurd as ſuch a ſpecies of accuſation muſt appear, has afforded to our opponents a copious ſource of abuſe and ſarcaſm. If it is founded upon fact, I conſider it as one, among many very cogent reaſons, why your new Candidate particularly deſerves your favour. And yet, according to Sir Richard's opinion,*

" *Inferiority*

* Page 18.

"*Inferiority of Extraction, is a reaſon why a man ſhould not raiſe his creſt too high.*" This unqualified ſentiment is delivered to us in his own words, and ſanctioned by his name. During ages of refinement and civilization, are we patiently to ſuffer ſuch an inſulting attack upon Engliſh privileges? Is this the character of liberty? Are theſe her features? Is this her language? No! whatever the narrow prejudice of an unenlightened mind may ſuggeſt to its poſſeſſor, we are all convinced that the paths of emulation are alike open to high and low, rich and poor; and that every individual whoſe talents and virtues qualify him for a Seat in the Britiſh Senate, may equally become a Candidate for the Suffrages of Freemen.

But from whom do theſe ſtrange declarations proceed? Are you aware, Gentlemen, that Mr. John Hill, whoſe pedigree Sir Richard has ſo vauntingly diſplayed in oppoſition to his rival, who was recommended to you in preference to his couſin becauſe the latter is deſcended from a Tradeſman—Are you aware, I ſay, that this very man was himſelf articled as clerk to a merchant in the metropolis? The *idle apprentice* of Hogarth was diſmiſſed from his maſter, and ſent to ſea. I do not mean to caſt any opprobrium on that account upon Mr. J. Hill; but I put it to his own breaſt, whether what I ſtate is not true, that for reaſons beſt known to himſelf he was taken from his buſineſs, and dedicated to very different deſtinations.

Gentlemen, theſe are circumſtances infinitely beneath your conſideration; nor ſhould I ever have thought of ſubmitting

ſubmitting them to your notice, if Sir Richard had not attempted to prejudice you againſt Mr. W. Hill, by depreciating his birth,* family, and connections. I now leave you to determine whether ſuch a ſpecies of accuſation ought to have proceeded from ſuch a quarter, or whether it ought to have been made at all.

The third charge, reſpecting the *Guardianſhip* † has been already ſufficiently refuted, by proving, from indiſputable

* To ſhew the Public the facility with which the Baronet's principles accommodate themſelves to the immediate object of his purſuit, it is worth while to compare his reflections upon Mr. W. Hill's anceſtors with his ſentiments as expreſſed in "*Pietas Oxonienſis.*" Whoever will give themſelves the trouble to examine that curious production, will find him in that inſtance a violent advocate for the ſons of Tradeſmen, and men of low birth; ſupporting his aſſertions by ſtating as argument that "*our Saviour was the Son of a Carpenter!*" How does this agree with his preſent attack upon the Attingham Family, or with that ſtrange doctrine, which affirms that "*inferiority of extraction is a reaſon why a man ſhould not raiſe his creſt too high?*"

† It never was my intention to make any reply to Mr. De Courcy's *Vindication.* I cannot think he has in any inſtance refuted the charges he undertook to anſwer. Frequently, begging his own queſtion, he has introduced a reply to accuſations that were never made, and by that means perpetuated, not only the few plain arguments alledged againſt Sir Richard, but alſo the more recent chimeras of his own brain. With regard to the papers ſigned Fidelis, I have nothing to ſtate either of cenſure or commendation. I am as ignorant of their author, as I have every reaſon to believe their author is of me; and upon this ſubject ſhall only add, that a pamphlet of fifty pages in anſwer to a production which would not amount to five, has inclined many perſons to beſtow a favourable conſtruction upon circumſtances, which might otherwiſe have paſſed without notice.

My

authority, that it was totally void of truth. The imputation of ingratitude alledged againſt Mr. W. Hill, and founded on the veracity of ſuch a ſtatement, of courſe therefore falls to the ground. I have only to repeat to you again, and I beg it may be retained in your memories,

My motive for introducing this ſubject ariſes from a ſingle paſſage in the courſe of Mr. De Courcy's work. To ſhew the Public the *candid* and *impartial* manner in which he has conducted it, I beg leave to ſay a few words upon his Vindication of Sir Richard relative to the Guardianſhip.

He aſſerts (vide p. 25, of the *Vindication)* that "the term guardian "as applied to Mr. J. Hill's ſhare of the truſt, is never once uſed "in any part of "Hard Meaſure," or "the Supplement" to it." Granted! but the *term* WARD is applied to Mr. W. Hill, which ſignifies the ſame thing. I might affirm that John Doe was Richard Roe's *ſon*, and if it was proved I had ſtated a falſehood, ſhould I be exculpated by declaring, that I did not ſay Richard Roe was John Doe's *father*?

To obviate this objection, and to vent a little ſpleen againſt the moſt reſpectable of men, Mr. De Courcy has ſubjoined a note to the ſame page. In this note, he cites two or three lines of a paragraph (from page 3 of "Hard Meaſure") as the only part of Sir Richard's work that inſinuates any thing reſpecting the affair of *guardianſhip*. In thoſe lines I will agree with Mr. De Courcy, nothing is ſtated which implies that Mr. John Hill was guardian to his couſin William. But wherefore does he beg his own queſtion in this uncandid manner, and proceed to draw a falſe concluſion from principles unfairly advanced? Why did he ſo cautiouſly omit to notice the ſequel of that paragraph, which in the ſtrongeſt terms inſinuates and declares, that Mr. John Hill "*with unwearied diligence, uniting the utmoſt tenderneſs to their perſons* "*with the trueſt regard for their intereſts,*" acted as "PROTECTOR" to the Attingham family?—Why ſelect a paſſage, which had little or no reference to the ſubject, and omit to notice in the ſame paragraph, words directly applicable, although couched in miſrepreſentation, and void of the ſmalleſt pretenſions to truth?

memories, that Mr. J. Hill never was Guardian to any of the Attingham Family. All that has been ſaid about his unwearied diligence in the diſcharge of this office, his tenderneſs for their perſons, and his regard for their intereſts, is a miſrepreſentation, and altogether untrue. He never acted in the capacity of Guardian, neither was he, as Sir Richard ſtyles him, their *Protector*; therefore he had no claim to their gratitude. On the contrary, they had every reaſon to expect from him ſome proof of acknowledgment, for the numerous obligations he had received from their father.

As for the laſt and abſurd charge, with regard to the age of Mr. W. Hill, it is already become ſo much a ſubject of deriſion and ridicule among us, that I believe Sir Richard heartily repents his folly in having made it. Our preſent Miniſter opened his political career preciſely at the ſame period of life. The affairs of a whole Nation, nay, of all Europe, have been veſted in *his* hands, and the manner in which he has acquitted himſelf to his country, will afford the beſt argument I can adduce for placing young men in ſituations of reſponſibility.

Gentlemen, I have done! With tremulous ſolicitude I ſubmit the product of my labours before that tribunal, who decide with candour, and condemn with impartiality; who ſhut not their ears to conviction, but liſten with mildneſs to the dictates of truth. Having heard, in its fulleſt extent, the ſtatement of one party, they will equally regard the repreſentation of the other. They will judge between Sir Richard and me; and whatever that deciſion may be, I chearfully await its advent, and will abide by its determination.

In

In the mean time, it is neceſſary to declare, that the anxiety I ſpeak of, has no reference whatever to that partial herd, who exert their deſpicable talents, for mercenary conſiderations. They are few in number, and well known among us. I have nothing to do with them. My buſineſs is with you. Neither will I pay the ſmalleſt attention to ſuch contemptible opponents. I have obſerved them waiting with canine appetites for ſome new object of ſcurrility. Hitherto, they have been miſtaken in every conjecture they have made with regard to the various authors of thoſe publications which have of late been circulated. They are alſo, egregiouſly in error, with regard to the writer of theſe pages. I have given them a clue ſufficient for diſcovery, if innate ſtupidity has not entirely cloſed the avenues of penetration. If, after wading thro' a ſea of blunders, they arrive at length upon the wiſhed for ſhore, I beg they will immediately eſtabliſh their colony, and promulgate their invective in all the inſolent ſecurity of profit and preferment. But remember, what I write is written in REPLY; it is Sir Richard alone, who, by an additional attack upon the character of my friends, can provoke me to a REJOINDER.

And now, Gentlemen, with the utmoſt reſpect and gratitude, for any attention you may have been pleaſed to beſtow upon this impartial *Vindication* of the children of NOEL HILL, and the cauſe they eſpouſe, I take my leave of you. To this avowal of my ſentiments I would willingly ſubjoin my name, if I could conſider the name of a private man as a matter of importance to the preſent conteſt, or any additional mark of reſpect. I pledge myſelf ſolemnly to the public, to produce it upon a future occaſion, provided Sir Richard will ſtate a ſingle circumſtance

circumſtance which may be rationally conſidered as a proper motive for ſo doing. Nay more, if throughout this whole work, he will prove that I have advanced a ſingle falſehood, or wilfully miſrepreſented any thing that may tend to his prejudice, I will openly come forward to anſwer the Accuſation.

For inaccuracy of ſtyle, or inelegance of compoſition, I muſt at once deprecate your cenſure, and demand your pardon. This circumſtance I think proper to mention, becauſe I have obſerved of late amongſt our opponents, a tendency to quibble in verbal criticiſm, inſtead of anſwering arguments. Some of them, though perhaps too contemptible for notice, either from ignorance or folly, have even condeſcended to cavil at the common errors of the preſs. For my own part, to uſe the words of a celebrated writer,* "I am ſenſible "I have not diſpoſed my materials to abide the teſt of "a captious controverſy, but of a ſober and even forgiving "examination; that they are not armed at all points for "battle; but dreſſed to viſit thoſe who are willing to give "a peaceful entrance to truth."

* Burke's Eſſay on the Sublime and Beautiful.

POSTSCRIPT.

POSTSCRIPT.

No leſs than four editions having been iſſued of "Hard Meaſure," it may not be improper to notice the *various readings* which diſtinguiſhed them.

But before we proceed to make any remarks upon this ſubject, let us conſider the mode by which Sir Richard paſſes off an old edition for a new one. A very curious inſtance of this ſpecies of impoſture was afforded upon the appearance of the fourth edition.

Upon this occaſion, by reprinting a leaf or two, paſting in a printed label * by way of note, to which there was no reference, and merely introducing a new title page, the remaining copies of the third edition were dreſſed up in a new garb, and paſſed off upon the public,

* Nothing could be more laughable, than the heterogeneous jumble which characteriſed the fourth edition. In ſome of them, a printed label had been paſted upon the margin of the 29th page, which was to ſerve as a Note to ſome part of the paragraph above, although no reader could determine to which paſſage the note applied, as it was without reference. In ſeveral copies of this edition, the label had been taken off, and nothing remained but the mark of the paſte, to ſhew it had been there. In others, the whole leaf had been reprinted, and a new one introduced; for what purpoſe I am unable to comprehend.

as if the whole work had been actually reprinted a third time. This is a common trick with pamphlet writers and pamphlet venders, especially where the work is not likely to have a very speedy sale, and lies heavy upon the bookseller's hands.

By this sort of fallacy, an author may usher his work through fifty editions in the course of as many days, and, as PUFF says in the Critic, "boldly advertise the tenth edition, before he has sold ten of the first." If, with such amazing facility, errors may be corrected, and the stale impression of a pamphlet pawned upon the public as a new edition altered and amended, how unfortunate it was that Mr. De Courcy did not adopt a similar mode of proceeding in his *Vindication*. He would not then stand convicted, as he now does, of a despicable subterfuge. He would moreover have been spared the disagreeable task which I am told he has undertaken, of resigning the Vindication of Sir Richard's character to vindicate his own.

Lectiones variae

IN THE DIFFERENT EDITIONS OF "HARD MEASURE."

In the first edition of "Hard Measure," the Baronet favoured us with a *pun* upon the word *crab*, which in the succeeding editions was altered, as it had not the desired effect, and the epithet *ungrateful* was substituted in its place.

place. Thus the pun was deſtroyed, to make room for the moſt curious metaphor the world ever ſaw.

But the public are not aware of the circumſtances attending this ſingular paragraph, which ſuffered an alteration while the work was in the preſs, and before the firſt impreſſion of "Hard Meaſure" was finiſhed. I have this from the beſt authority; although I am under the neceſſity of giving the original tenor of the ſentence from memory. It ſtated the pun with regard to the *crab* ſtock, and would have informed us, that upon this *crab* had been ingrafted a *golden pippin* and a *nonpareil*; alluding in the firſt inſtance to Lord Berwick, and in the ſecond to Mr. W. Hill. Sir Richard was extremely deſirous that it ſhould remain as he had written it, but ſome ill-natured friend adviſed him to blot out the *golden pippin* and the *nonpareil*; which I am extremely ſorry for, becauſe, if the paſſage had remained in its original ſtate, it would have informed the public what he meant by *taking his leave of allegory* at the beginning of the next paragraph.*

Another alteration alſo took place in the ſecond edition, which ought not to paſs unnoticed. I allude to that paſſage in page 21, where the Baronet ſpeaks of "two or three individuals, who expect all the reſt, both Corporation and Freemen, to dance after their beck."

In the firſt edition, the following words were added to this paragraph, which were cautiouſly omitted in the ſecond. "I might as well talk of *my* right to recommend my

* Page 18.

my ſucceſſor to the County, and conceive that a *hint* from me would be effectual for that purpoſe."

I own I think Sir Richard acted wiſely in expunging all he had ſaid about *his* right of *appointing a ſucceſſor*, becauſe the County of Salop will ſoon ſave him that trouble, and, if I am not miſinformed, will take the liberty of acting for themſelves.

When the third edition appeared, it was diſcovered that the ſame trick had been practiſed which we had witneſſed with regard to the ſecond, and which was afterwards the caſe reſpecting the fourth: ſo that in fact there never was but one edition of "Hard Meaſure."—The title pages have been reprinted, and whenever an alteration has been introduced into the body of the work, it was merely by the inſertion of a new leaf.

Such is the patchwork which paſſes among us for the firſt, ſecond, third, and fourth editions of "Hard Meaſure;" and in this manner, if Sir Richard pleaſes, he may ſoon favour us with the fourteenth.

I have not ſaid any thing here reſpecting the *Supplement*, becauſe it has been ſufficiently noticed in the courſe of this work. For the ſame reaſon I decline animadverting upon Sir Richard's violent attack againſt a certain gentleman,* whom in his miſtaken zeal he thought proper to traduce, as the author of "Meaſure for Meaſure."

An

* I have been informed of two very penitential and obliging letters, which Sir Richard has lately ſent to this gentleman, with a view of *aſking his pardon*; proffering at the ſame time a *douceur*, which was rejected with the contempt it deſerved.

An additional paragraph appeared in the fourth edition,* which alludes to Mr. W. Hill's being educated for the law. As I do not underſtand what it aims at, or why it was introduced, I paſs it over as one, among many paſſages and alluſions in "Hard Meaſure," which are totally irrelevant to the object Sir Richard profeſſes to have in view;† that "*of ſhewing at whoſe door all the confuſion and diſcord lies, in which the Borough of Shrewſbury is involved.*"

* Page 31. † Advertiſement to "Hard Meaſure."

☞ The Reader is requeſted to correct the following error with his pen: Page 76, For the *preſent* Lord Orford, read the *uncle* of the preſent, &c.

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A DIDACTIC POEM.

WITH

NOTES,

CRITICAL, EXPLANATORY, AND ORNAMENTAL,

By J. W———N, Esq.

———— "Then die Cæsar!"

Julius Cæsar, Act 3.

"Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin."

Daniel, Ch. 5.

"Why in dull prose thy warlike Deeds rehearse?
"A Hero sure, like Thee, should strut in verse."

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